HISTORY OF
ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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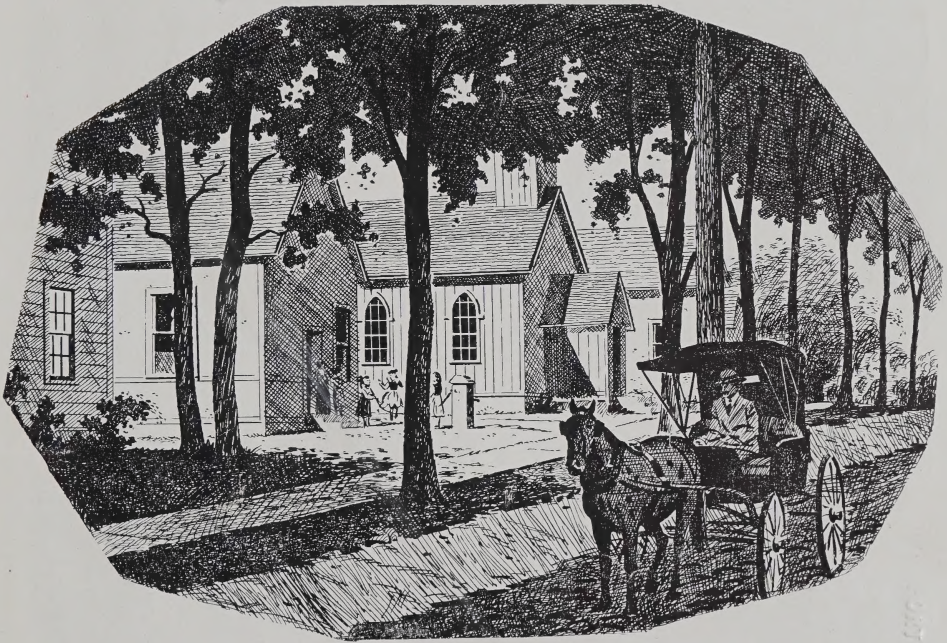
CENTENNIAL HISTORY

St. John Lutheran Church



1853 ★ 100 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE ★ 1953

Written by

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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO

2061822

OUR CHURCH

"The Lutheran Church differs from all other churches in being essentially the Church of the pure Word and unadulterated Sacraments.. Not the great number of her adherents, not her organizations, not her charitable and other institutions, not her beautiful customs and liturgical forms, but the precious truths confessed by her Symbols in perfect agreement with the Holy Scriptures constitute the true beauty and rich treasures of our Church, as well as the never-failing source of her vitality and power.

"Wherever the Lutheran Church ignored her Symbols, or rejected all or some of them, there she always fell an easy prey to her enemies. But wherever she held fast to her God-given crown, esteemed and studied her Confessions, and actually made them a norm and standard of her entire life and practice, there the Lutheran Church flourished, and confounded all her enemies."

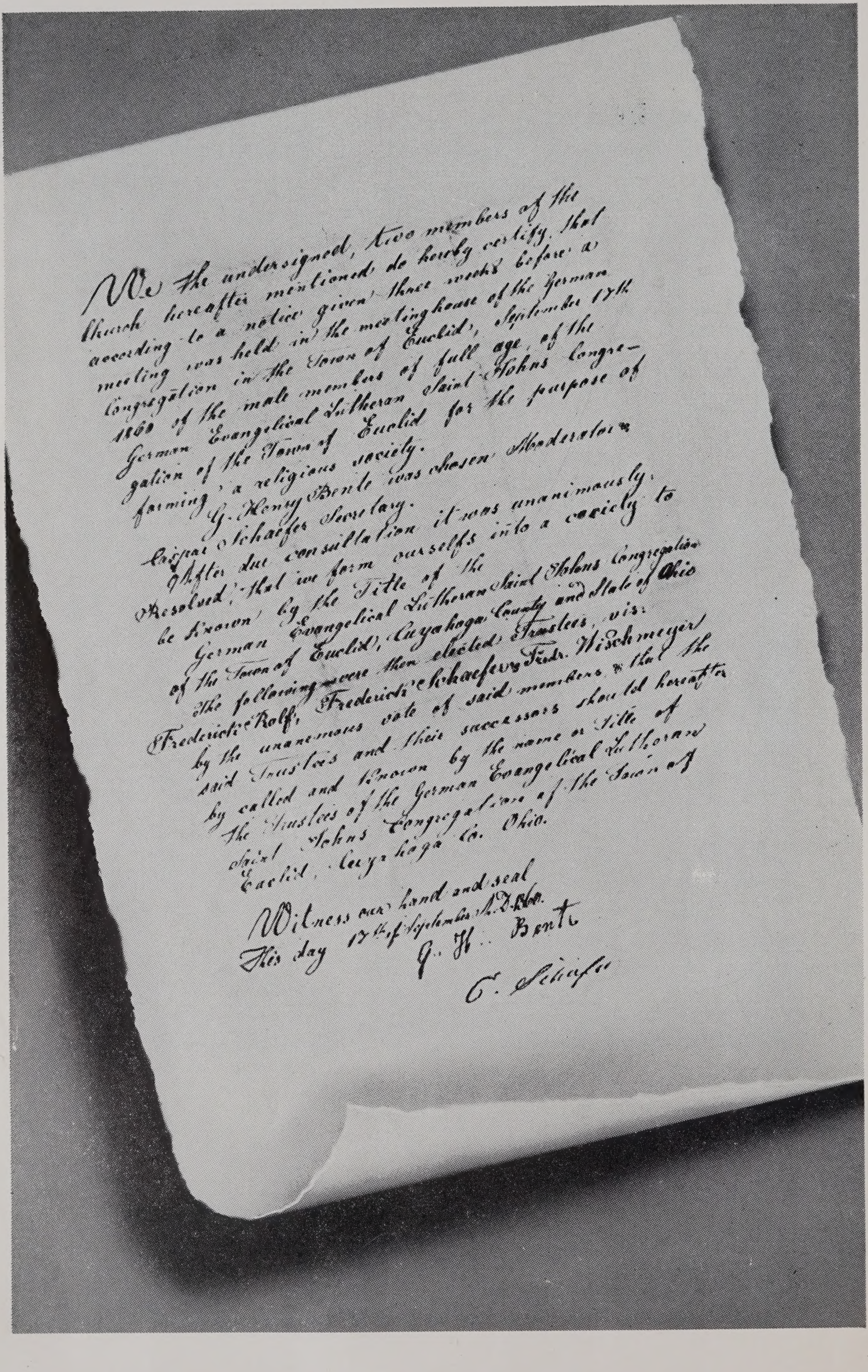
Professor F. Bente in the
"Preface" to the Book of Concord

Gift - 5 - Barbara Doerr [illegible]

REVEREND STEWART A. BURK

DEDICATION

To God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, who has loved us with an everlasting love and in vicarious atonement and mercy has lifted us to be His Children; To God, who through deigning to put His name in this place and establish St. John Lutheran Church, has blessed countless souls through the unbroken administration of His Word and Sacrament for One Hundred Years of Grace; To this God, to whom we owe all praise, honor, glory and obedience, we do solemnly dedicate this Centennial Book.



We the undersigned, two members of the
Church hereafter mentioned do herby certify, that
according to a notice given three weeks before a
meeting was held in the meetinghouse of the German
Congregation in the Town of Euclid, September 17th
1860 of the male members of full age, of the
German Evangelical Lutheran Saint Johns Congregation
of the Town of Euclid for the purpose of
forming, a religious society.
G. Henry Bente was chosen Moderator &
Caspar Schaefer Secretary.
After due consultation it was unanimously
Resolved, that we form ourselfs into a society to
be known by the Title of the
German Evangelical Lutheran Saint Johns Congregation
of the Town of Euclid, Cuyahoga County and State of Ohio
The following were then elected Trustees, viz:
Frederick Rolf, Frederick Schaefer & Fdr. Wischmeyer
by the unanimous vote of said members & that the
said Trustees and their successors should hereafter
be called and known by the name a Title of
the Trustees of the German Evangelical Lutheran
Saint Johns Congregation of the Town of
Euclid, Cuyahoga Co. Ohio.

Witness our hand and seal
This day 17th of September A.D. 1860.
G. H. Bente
C. Schaefer

Chapter One

The history of St. John Lutheran Church and its first century of existence is set against a dual background. The church has been an integral part of a community which has grown from a crossroads hamlet to a modern suburban area; and the congregation and its leaders have also played a role in the development of the Synod to which it belongs.

As it had been two centuries earlier for the English, the desire for religious freedom was one of the chief causes of the German migration which surged into the United States in the middle of the 18th century. Complete congregations embarked for the New World, as well as thousands of individual families.

1830 saw the arrival of the first German families in the Village of Cleveland (Population 1,075.) Just a few at first, they settled on Superior and Lorain Avenues. Although of different confessional beliefs, they united in 1835 to build a small Evangelical community church, where they could hear services in their native tongue. Called Schifflein Christi (Little Boat of Christ), it was given its name by a group of German sailors, who erected it in Thanksgiving for their deliverance from one of Lake Erie's fierce storms.

German immigration began to gain momentum with the 1840's, and as their numbers increased, the Lutherans decided to break away from Schifflein Christi to worship in the confessional doctrine. In 1843, they formed Zion Church, joined the Ohio Synod, and began meeting in Concert Hall on Superior Street.

However, the Ohio Synod accepted the unionistic tendencies, which had been one of the chief causes of dissension in the Fatherland, and many pastors found themselves unable to agree with its leadership. Accordingly, on September 18, 1845, Zion Church at Concert Hall was host to nine churchmen, who signed a formal statement severing their connection with the synod.

Rather than form another small synod, these men considered merging with the congregations of the Saxon Lutherans who had settled in large numbers in Missouri. Correspondence between the two groups led to a meeting in Chicago, Ill., on April 26, 1847, at which the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States was formed.

Zion Church was among the earliest members of the new Synod and continued to grow rapidly, erecting its own church and establishing a school in 1848. In 1851, the church called a new pastor, Rev. Heinrich C. Schwan. A nephew of Rev. Friedrich C. E. Wyneken, one of the greatest of the early Lutheran missionaries in the United States, Pastor Schwan had arrived in the country the year before, and was serving a congregation in Missouri when called to Cleveland. Later, his abilities were to earn him the post of president of the Synod for 22 years; in his early days, he concentrated on expanding his mother church into a string of German Lutheran congregations across Northern Ohio.

Among the communities where Schwan began to hold mission services was that which was developing in the southern part of Euclid Township. Moses Cleveland's surveyors had claimed "Township eight in the eleventh range" as their own and named it after the patron of mathematics. They began settling families

Old Homestead
Residence Noble Road

Old Rolf homestead where some of first services were held.

along the lake shore in 1797, but it was not until the War of 1812 brought fear of raids from British warships on Lake Erie that settlers moved southward to establish homes at the intersection of two Chippewa Indian trails which today are known as Mayfield and Green roads.

The crossroads settlement soon became known as South Euclid, although it did not formally acquire that title for 100 years. Settlement by Anglo-Saxon stock continued, but it was not until 1845 that the first German families came to the area.

First to arrive were the Melcher brothers and it was at the home of Friedrich Melcher, located on State (Mayfield) Road on the present site of Brush High School, and in the Rolf homestead, on what is now Noble Road at Bluestone, that Pastor Schwan held services.

By 1853, the number of families had increased enough to consider forming a church. At the Synodical Convention in Milwaukee in 1851, Rev. Schwan had met a young pastor, newly arrived from Germany and discouraged about the hardships he had encountered. Schwan persuaded him to remain in this country and accept a call as vicar to Rev. Wilhelm Sihler of Ft. Wayne, Ind., who had been influential in the founding of the Synod.

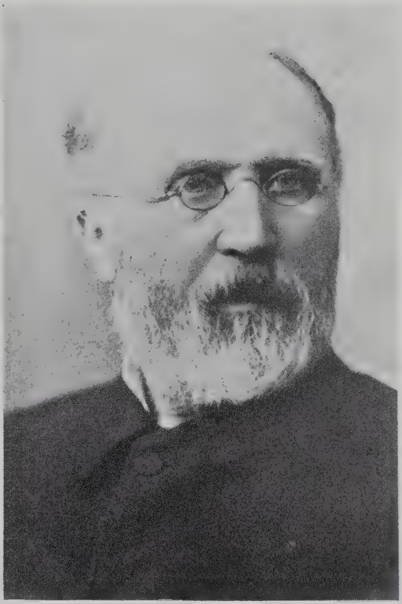
Hermann Kuehn had had a varied career before coming to America. Born in 1818, he was the son of the pastor of a village church in Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen. Rationalism had then gained control of the German church and was the doctrine preached by his father. The proper feeding of cattle was often the basis of the Christmas Day sermon and young Hermann was taught that for the miracle of the feeding of the multitude, Christ had secretly ordered bread wagons brought to his aid.

Showing practical ability, the boy received business training and instruction in English and French. After serving three years as a grocer's apprentice, he worked for a steamship company, until, offered a more lucrative position as a traveling salesman, he began selling liquor and tobacco. His industry and temperance soon brought him what is considered financial success, but the course of his life took an abrupt turn. While on one of his trips, he entered an orthodox church and, for the first time, heard a sermon on the Resurrection which deeply impressed him. Although warned to stay away from "those cranks", lest he lose all sense of reason, he returned to the services, and after months of deliberation, resigned his job to enter the ministry. He studied at the Mission Station in Berlin to prepare for work in America, then put the finishing touches on his training by studying under Pastor Wilhelm Loethe, who had been the guiding spirit in Germany for the Missouri Synod.

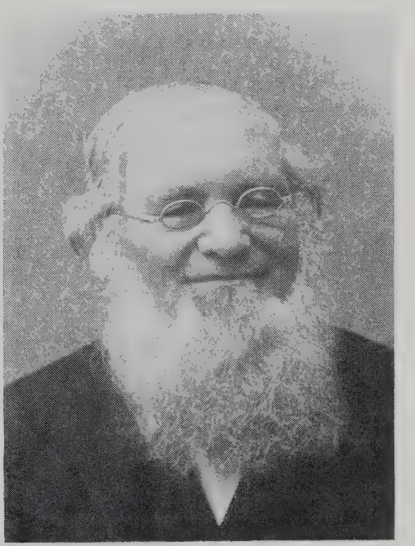
In April, 1850, Loethe sent the newly ordained Kuehn to Michigan with a colony, but most of the families left the group before they reached the land acquired for them and the undertaking failed. Kuehn went to Illinois, where he ministered to a small, poorly organized congregation. Unable to find a regular pastorate, he was consideraing going back to Germany when he met Schwan.

In 1853, when the question of a pastor for the new congregation came up, Schwan evidently remembered Kuehn and suggested him. The latter accepted the call in July and came to Euclid where on August 24, "the Wednesday after the 13th Sunday after Trinity", he was installed by Pastor Schwan.

No list of charter members was made, but the list of male communicants of 1853 included Friedrich Melcher, in whose home the early services were held; his brothers, Ernst and Gerhard, who lived on Richmond road; Friedrich Wischmeyer, who lived



Reverend Heinrich C. Schwan



Reverend Hermann Kuehn

The Melcher Family, reading from left to right, Standing: Heinrich, Joseph, Adolph; Seated: Ernest, Elsibine, Gerhardt, Friederich.

on Richmond; Johann Friedrich Linnert, who lived on Noble; Heinrich Wilhelm Obrock, who lived on Bluestone; Ernst Heinrich Klostermeyer, who lived on Richmond; Clamor Rolf, Sr., Clamor Rolf, Jr., and Gerhard Rolf, whose Noble road homestead was another scene of early services; Wilhelm Wierspecker, who lived on Mayfield at Churchill; Henry Pose, who lived on Mayfield at Winston; and Friedrich Schafer, who lived on Richmond.

On May 25th, 1854, the congregation voted to join the Missouri Synod, and the new church was accepted at Synod's eighth convention in June. The following November, the congregation entered into a threeway agreement with Johann H. Meier and Casper Schafer for the purchase of 17 acres on the State Road. Meier, who owned the property, was to receive $650; $585 for the land and $65 for a house and shanty, which stood on it. However, a survey showed that 56/100 of an acre was lacking, so the total was cut to $631.60. The church then divided the property with Schafer. He paid $263.32 for the buildings and the land at what is now the corner of Mayfield and Sheffield. The church retained 10.41 acres at a cost of $581.60, plus $8, one half of the survey cost. Money for the purchase was borrowed from various members at 10 percent. Pastor Kuehn also lent an unknown sum and was reimbursed before he left the congregation.

The following year, the first church was erected, and also a parsonage for Rev. Kuehn and his family, who had

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been staying with Friedrich Melcher. At the December 2 voters meeting, it was decided that every member who had a team was to bring one cord of wood for use in the two buildings. This was changed in 1857 to provide that every member was to pay one dollar for fuel.

Casper Schafer and Ernst Melcher were elected deacons at the first election held February 23, 1856. Trustees named were Clamor Rolf, Ernst Voth, and Gerhard Melcher. On March 12, Friedrich Schafer was elected clerk of the church, a fact which was recorded in English. All minutes of earlier meetings had been in German, and, with few exceptions, continued to be set down in the mother tongue until 1918.

In April of the same year, the voters decided to build a barn, 10′x16′x36′, in which they stabled their horses on Sunday mornings. The membership continued to grow as more German families moved into the community.

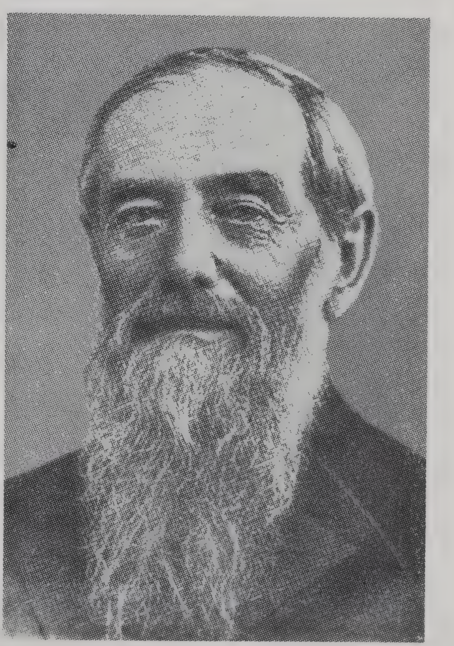
With the opening of the new decade, Pastor Kuehn received a call to the church in Zanesville, O. (He served in southern Ohio and Indiana until his death in 1898.)

Money was scarce for the little congregation. Pastor Kuehn's salary had been set at $250 annually plus $10 for fuel in 1857 (a day's farm wages was $.75) but when he left, the church owed him $89, which was not paid until the following December.

At their meeting on February 3, 1860, the congregation decided to extend a call to Rev. Johann Adam Ernst, who had represented the Ohio pastors at the formation of the Synod in Chicago in 1847.

Ernst was the first missionary sent to America by Pastor Loethe. As a young man of 26, he was working as a cobbler's apprentice in Asch, Bohemia, when he read Loethe's appeal for men to work among the brethren in North America. Ernst immediately began studying under Loethe, who sent him to the new world in 1842. He entered a Lutheran seminary in Columbus, O., and was ordained in Detroit in 1845 as a pastor of the Ohio Synod. He soon became disturbed at the Synod's doctrines and at the meeting in Cleveland's Concert Hall in that year, he was one of two chosen to confer with the Missouri Lutherans. In Chicago in 1847, he was one of 12 voting pastors who signed the charter.

In 1849, Ernst accepted a call in Eden, N. Y., where he also traveled across the border into Ontario and founded the first Missouri Lutheran congregations in Canada. Throat trouble forced him to resign from his pastorate there, and he again practiced the cobbler's trade. In 1860, fully recovered, he accepted the call to St. John.



Reverend Johann Adam Ernst

One of Pastor Ernst's first actions here was the decision to have the church use the St. Louis agenda of services which had been recommended by the Synod. He also had compiled a list of the voting members and their families.

Twenty four families appear on this list. The voters were: Gerhard Heinrich Melcher, Gerhard Friedrich Melcher, Jr., Ernst Friedrich Melcher, Gerhard Friedrich Melcher, Sr., Heindrich Friedrich Wischmeyer, Gerhard Heindrich Wischmeyer, Friedrich Wilhelm Goede, Clamor Adolph Rolf, Sr., Gerhard Friedrich Rolf, Jr., Gerhard Heindrich Potting, Johann Heindrich Miller, Johann Friedrich Linnert, Clamor Jacob Linnert, Ernst Heinrich Klostermeyer, Johann Friedrich Schafer, Ernst Heinrich Detring, Johann Heinrich Herbshessmann, Gerhard Heinrich Bente, Johann Friedrich Leppelmeyer, Ernest Heinrich Schmidt, Casper Schafer, Johann Ludwig Wilhelm Semlow, Ernst Prasse, and Friedrich Wilhelm Schwentker.

Pastor Ernst also suggested that the church be incorporated and registered with the County of Cuyahoga. Accordingly after preliminary discussions, the voters met September 17, 1860, to incorporate as the "Deutsche Evangaelisch St. Johannes Gemeinde zu Euclid, Cuyahoga County, Ohio."

On December 22, 1860, this document, translated into English was recorded in the Cuyahoga County Records of Religious Societies, Volume 1, Page 101.

The document reads:

We the undersigned, two members of the Church hereafter mentioned, do hereby certify, that according to a notice given three weeks before a meeting was held in the meetinghouse of the German Congregation in the Town of Euclid, September 17, 1860, of the male members of full age of the German Evangelical Lutheran Saint Johns Congregation of the Town of Euclid for the purpose of forming a religious society. G. Henry Bente was chosen Moderator and Casper Schafer, Secretary.

After due consultation it was unanimously:

Resolved, that we form ourselfs into a society to be known by the Title of the German Evangelical Lutheran Saint Johns Congregation of the Town of Euclid, Cuyahoga County and State of Ohio.

The following were elected trustees, viz:

Frederick Rolf, Frederick Schaefer & Fred. Wischmeyer by the unanimous vote of said members and that the said trustees and their successors should hereafter be called and known by the name or Title of the Trustees of the German Evangelical Lutheran Saint Johns Congregation of the Town of Euclid, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio.

Witness our hand and seal

This day 17th of September A.D. 1860

G. H. Bente
C. Schafer

With the approval of Synod and State, possessed of real property, and a recorded list of members, St. John Lutheran Congregation in the southern part of Euclid Township was a fully established church.

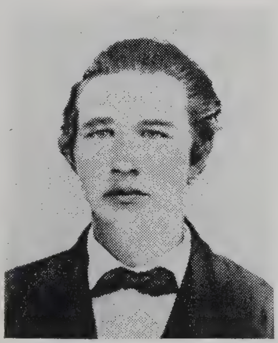
Chapter Two

One of Pastor Ernst's first actions on coming to St. John was the estabment of a school.

Pastor Kuehn evidently had held occasional classes and children of the church members may have studied in the community school erected in 1845 on the Green road property sold last spring (1953) to the Society for Savings, but Pastor Ernst was the first to establish regular classes where the children of his members could receive religious as well as general instruction.

Classes began on April 17, 1860, in the church. Ernst seated the children by age, rather than by previous education. His actions brought protests from parents, who felt that the better educated students should not be held back while the others caught up. At two meetings held on April 23 and May 13, Pastor Ernst stood his ground, insisting that his method would prevent embarrassment among the less fortunate.

The Civil War gave the men of St. John their first chance to fight for their adopted country. Color Sergeant Frank Prasse, a member of the Union Army, was killed in the Battle of Chancellorsville, Va., in 1863. The 24-year-old soldier was the first of six members of the congregation who have died in service. Another tragedy, which drew the congregation's sympathy, came in 1861, when the four small children of Ernst Melcher died within two weeks of one another of diptheria. Small crosses were marked opposite their names in the church register which Pastor Ernst had compiled the year before.



Color Sergeant Frank Prasse

Despite the war and other hardships, newcomers continued to increase the size of the congregation. By 1862, a church housing problem had developed. During the winter months, several after-service meetings were held to discuss the matter of enlarging the church. The members finally decided that it would be impracticable to enlarge the building—it would have been too cold for use as a school and if enlarged, it "would not be appropriately churchly." After deliberation, the voters resolved to build a new church, 26 x 36 feet, with a special balcony, sacristy, lobby, and tower with a bell. A Mr. Shaker was named the builder, and plans were drawn by H. Griese.

The building was completed in the fall and at the meeting on October 26, 1862, the voters set November 9 and 10 as the dates of the dedication service.

Pastor Schwan, and Pastor Kuehn and his family, were invited, as well as Pastor Lindemann from Trinity Church, Pastor Sallmann from Newburgh, Pastor Rupprecht from Dover, and the choir from Ohio City. Gerhard Potting and Clamor Linnert were elected marshals to keep order during the celebration, and young Samuel Ernst was elected to ring the church bell.

Regulations were also set up for the ringing of the bell in the future. These included: 1. twice on Sunday morning, one hour before and ten minutes before the service, and in the afternoon ten minutes before the end of the service; 2. before festival days at sunset; 3. at the death of a member; 4. at burials, from the time the funeral procession came into sight until it reached the cemetery; after the burial, until the people were assembled in the church; and after the service; 5. in case of fire; 6. at marriages, if the couple desired it.

The rules for funerals point up a custom prevalent in the early churches. The aisles were narrow and it was impossible for the pallbearers to bring the coffin into the church, so the interment preceded the services.

The year after the building of the new church, Pastor Ernst asked the congregation to release him so that he might accept a call to Canada. The mission work which illness had interrupted was still strong in his heart and he decided to return to it.

In looking around for a successor, the voters decided to extend a call to another pastor who had signed the charter in Chicago at the organization of the synod in 1847. Friedrich Wilhelm Husmann had, indeed, been ordained at that historic session.

Husmann, born in Germany in 1807, was teaching school in Bremen when he met Pastor Wyneken, who had just returned to his homeland from mission work in America. Wyneken persuaded Husmann to return with him to start a school for his congregation in Ft. Wayne, Ind. After the teacher's arrival in 1840, Wyneken also encouraged him to preach. When Wyneken again traveled to Germany in 1842-43 to recruit more missionaries, Husmann ministered to Wyneken's flock. In 1845, Husmann went to the congregation at Soest, Allen County, Ind., and also served the congregations at nearby Flat Rock and Bingen.

Rev. Friedrich Wilhelm Husmann

Being of strong confessional beliefs, Husmann traveled to Cleveland and attended the meeting at which the pastors there broke with the Ohio Synod. At the meeting in Chicago in 1847, Husmann was formally ordained and he was also elected to serve as first secretary of the new synod. He continued to serve in Allen County until he came to Euclid in August, 1863.

Pastor Husmann assisted the congregation in the drafting of its first constitution. The matter was first discussed at the meetings in the fall of 1865, and the drafting continued until completed at the meeting on April 24, 1866. The constitution was read to the congregation and approved on Pentecost Day.

Articles of the constitution provided for the name of the church, the confessional basis, qualifications and duties of membership, authority of the congregation, duties of the pastor and teachers, Synodical membership property rights, and rules for society. Also included were the procedure for amending the constitution, and a list of the articles which would be unalterable.

Test of the constitution of St. John has been the fact that it has undergone little alteration in almost 90 years.

Probably in connection with the passage of the constitution, a new list of the members of the church and their families was made that year. Names which had not appeared on the 1860 list include: Heinrich Huge, Friedrich Wilhelm Conrad, Gerhard Heinrich Schroeder, Carl Bruggemyer, Johann Friedrich Ritz, Wilhelm Emshoff, Ernst Heinrich Dremann, Christoph Hehe, Heinrich Schmidt, Ernst Carl Ludwig Huge, Andreus Baschold, Heinrich Friedrich Elbrecht, Gustus Schaefer, Heinrich Gesell, Friedrich Wilhelm Prasse, Johann Friedrich Meyer, Johann Friedrich Finkemeier, Ernst Heinrich Fark, Ernst Heinrich Holsing, Johann Friedrich Schmitker, Hermann Heinrich Klaustermeyer, and Johann Friedrich Schwentker.

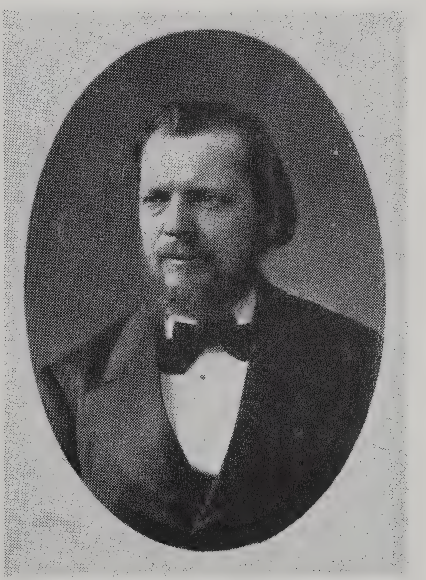
Twenty-two names. The little congregation had almost doubled in six years.

Increase in the number of families meant a similar increase in the number of children attending school. After the erection of the new church, the older building was used solely as a schoolhouse and Pastor Husmann taught the classes.

In 1873, the increased school enrollment necessitated the addition of 15 feet to the rear of the building, and an entrance hall was placed in front. Cost was $82.22. The building was given a coat of paint that fall. The following spring, both church and school were painted white. Next addition was that built onto the parsonage two years later. Used as a kitchen, it measured 16x16 feet.

1875 also brought the decision to call a teacher. At the meeting on September 17, a motion was passed "to have a school teacher as soon as possible". Salary was set at $450, and tuition was to be $5 annually for one child, $8 for two, and $10 for three children or more. Casper Schafer, Fred Rolf, and Ernst Melcher were elected to the first school board.

When the congregation began looking for a teacher, their eye fell on Pastor Husmann's son-in-law, Heinrich August Lossner. He immediately accepted their call. Born in Germany in 1841, Lossner taught school in



Heinrich August Lossner

Pekin, Ill., when he first came to this country. He moved to Cleveland in 1872 to teach the school at Trinity Church on the west side, where Wyneken was pastor. He left there three years later to come to his father-in-law's church.

Lossner was elected secretary of the congregation and he also played the organ for Sunday services.

His arrival made necessary the building of a teacherage and in January, 1876, the congregation resolved to purchase a quarter acre of land east of the school for that purpose. The property, with its 24-foot frontage, cost $100; the eight-room house was erected for $814. It still stands today and has been rented by the church for the past two decades to the Ronald Bemis family, who operate a floral shop next door.

The voters decided to raise the school tuition to $8 for one child, $10 for two children, and $12 for three or more at their meeting the following October. Pastor Husmann received a raise; his salary was set at $550 annually.

His increase was in line with his fast-growing congregational responsibilities. German immigration to Cleveland was continuing at a swift pace and more and more were moving to South Euclid.

Additional names of voters, which were added in the 1870's, include: Johann Heinrich Dreves, Julius Pofahn, Ernst Heinrich Klosterman, Heinrich August Lossner, Christian Wilhelm Thomsen, Friedrich Wilhelm Fibich, Martin Tobias Dill, Johann Karl Theodore Staffield, Friedrich Pokase, Friedrich Moeller, Friedrich Wilhelm Elbrecht, Johann Friedrich Schaefer, Johann Georg Eckert, Heinrich Adam Faust, Johann Fielitz, Johann Urban, Adolph Ernst Theodore Schlke,, Carl Heinrich Herbkesmann, Johann Friedrich Carl Moeller, and Heinrich Wilhelm Fruitemann.

Chapter Three

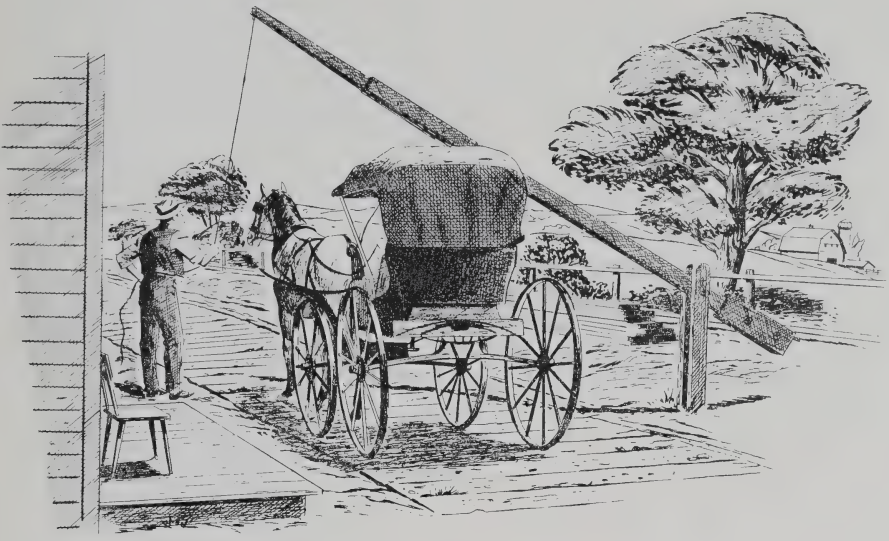
The year 1877 was a fateful one for the members of St. John and their neighbors, for that was the year the plank road was built.

Travel along the State Road was an unpleasant experience, except perhaps in winter, if the sleighing was good. In dry summer weather dust was measured in inches, and in spring and fall, mud was almost hub deep.

The winter of 1876 was unusually warm, and as the months progressed, the mud got even deeper. Conditions finally galvanized the farmers into action on a question they had kicked around for over 20 years—the building of a toll road of wooden planks, then the most common form of country improved road.

A meeting to form a company was held February 26, 1876, in the district schoolhouse on Green Road. Capital was raised in a few days and a certificate of incorporation was filed with the county recorder. Work did not start until the following year.

Throughout the summer of 1877, farmers were hauling logs to the saw mill on the banks of the Chagrin River in Gates Mills. The lumber was cut into planks eight feet long and three inches wide. By Christmas, 10 miles of road from the Euclid Road to Gates Mills had been laid at a cost of



$25,000. Tollgates were erected and rates per mile set at 2c for a two-horse team, 1½c for a horse and rig, 1c for a saddle horse, and ½c for driven cattle.

The road soon began to pay dividends for its stockholders, some as high as 10 percent. The Plank Road Company often held its annual meetings at St. John's schoolhouse and Ernst Melcher was one of the trustees.

The plank road passed St. John's at about the same grade as the present Mayfield Road paving, but at its southern edge the land rose swiftly, sloping up to the stone sidewalk which stood in front of the church and school. On each side of the walk stood the maple trees, planted in 1869, which were a familiar South Euclid landmark for half a century. The trees were badly singed during the 80's when a skating rink across the road burned to the ground and for many years they presented a lop-sided appearance.

Between the school and church was a driveway leading back to the barn where the farmers stabled their horses during the services. At the right of the driveway was a large block of stone, where the ladies could disembark without muddying their skirts.

West of the church was a small orchard, enclosed by a wooden fence, for which rails were bought in 1882 at a cost of $3.00 per hundred. The parsonage, beyond the orchard, stood on the extreme western edge of the property, where the cemetery drive is today. Of typical Western Reserve architecture, it was long and low with a colonial doorway and one large window downstairs from which the pastor in his study could look up from his work on his sermons and see the wagons coming down the plank road.

Behind the buildings stood the new cemetery, which was opened in 1877. Among the first to be buried there was Pastor Husmann, who died on May 4, 1881.

The congregation met on May 26 to discuss calling a new pastor, and the minutes show that among the candidates considered was one Pastor Koch of "Grand Rabbits", Mich. On June 11, the voters decided to extend a call to Pastor Ernst, who had left the congregation 21 years before to continue his mission work in Canada.

His efforts there had been crowned with success. He had organized many of the early congregations in Ontario, and he was elected first president of the Ontario District when it was organized in 1879. He also founded "The Volksblatt", a district newspaper, and served as its editor.

When the second call came from St. John, Pastor Ernst had reached the age of 66. He was ready to leave the more strenuous mission labors and glad to return to South Euclid.

He continued the development of the cemetery which Pastor Husmann had started. On February 4, 1883, the voters decided to abandon the previous plan of arranging burials in the order of death, and instead to establish family plots. Parcels approximately 12x16 feet were squared off. A driveway was planned, and narrow walks between the plots laid out. Each family received a lot free of charge. The head of each household drew a slip of paper which was numbered to correspond to the lot numbers.

At the March meeting, the congregation also voted to purchase a new organ for the church and later that year new benches were installed. Special services were held on November 12 to mark the 400th birthday of Dr. Luther.

In 1886, Teacher Lossner decided to leave that profession and turned in his resignation at the meeting on October 15. (He later operated a general store east of the church property on the present site of Linhart's Meat Market until his death in 1896, when he was buried in the church cemetery.)

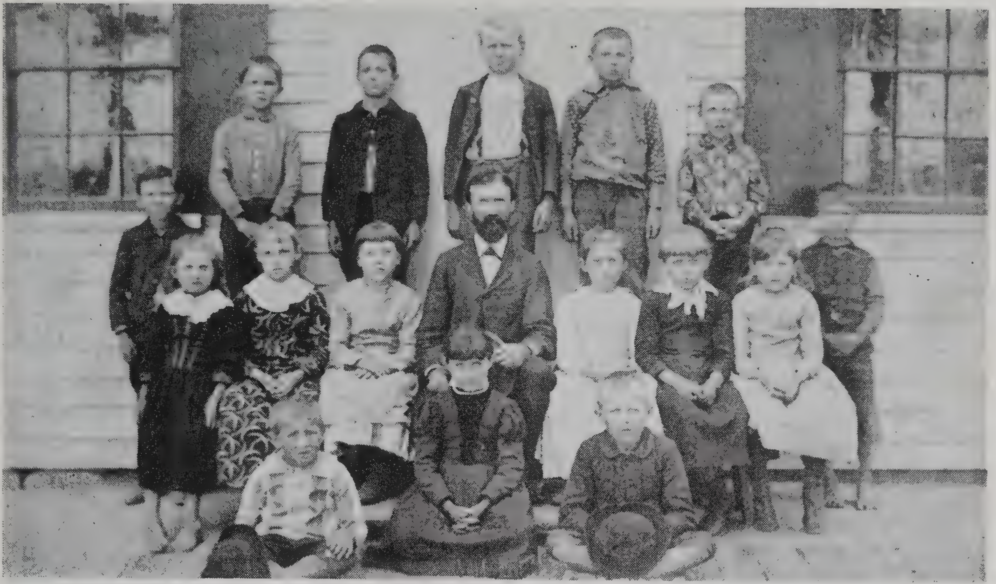
To replace him, Pastor Ernst suggested calling Johann Friedrich Hoffmeyer, whom he had met while both were serving in Canada. Hoffmeyer, who had accepted a call to Mt. Olivet Pa., near Pittsburgh, visited South Euclid and, a few months earlier on the urging of Pastor Ernst, accepted the call.

Born in 1843, Hoffmeyer was brought to this country from Germany as an infant. The family lived first in Utica, N. Y., but later moved to Detroit. Young Hoffmeyer decided to study for the ministry and attended a seminary operated by the Grabau, or Buffalo, Synod, which was in doctrinal discord with the Missouri Synod. After thorough study, he became convinced that the latter synod followed the true confessional belief, and joined it. While continuing his studies in 1862, he was asked to fill a temporary teaching position in Milwaukee and showed such a natural aptitude for teaching that he was advised to continue in that profession. He taught in Milwaukee and Detroit, before being called to Stonebridge, Canada, where he served for 20 years. Here he met Pastor Ernst.

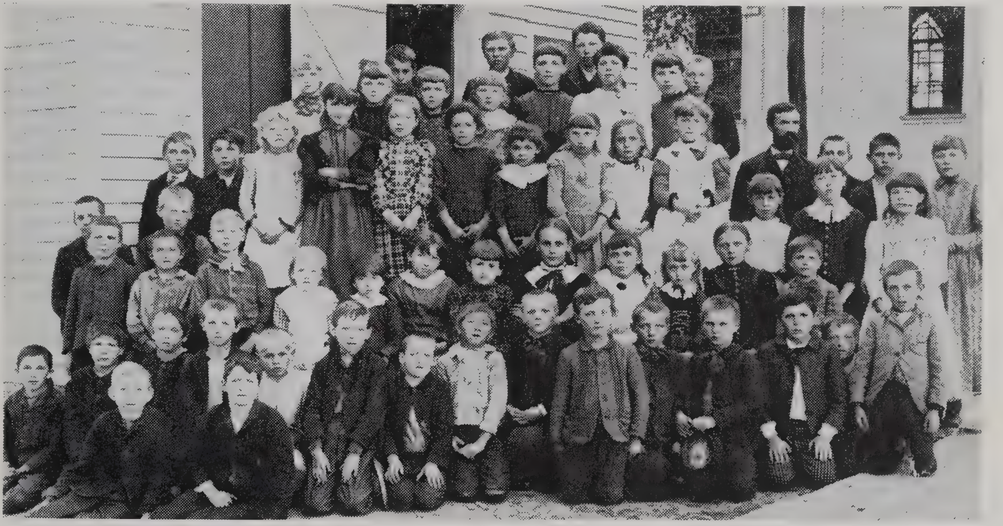
A brilliant scholar, Hoffmeyer often taught 80 children in his eight grades at St. John. He was a firm disciplinarian, and although short and slender, he soon proved that he was the master of the husky farm lads, many of whom could only attend classes in the winter months and were still in school at 16.

The morning session from 9:00 to 12:00 was conducted in German. Religious studies came first, followed by German grammar and literature, and then arithmetic. (In later years, instruction in the latter was transferred into English.)

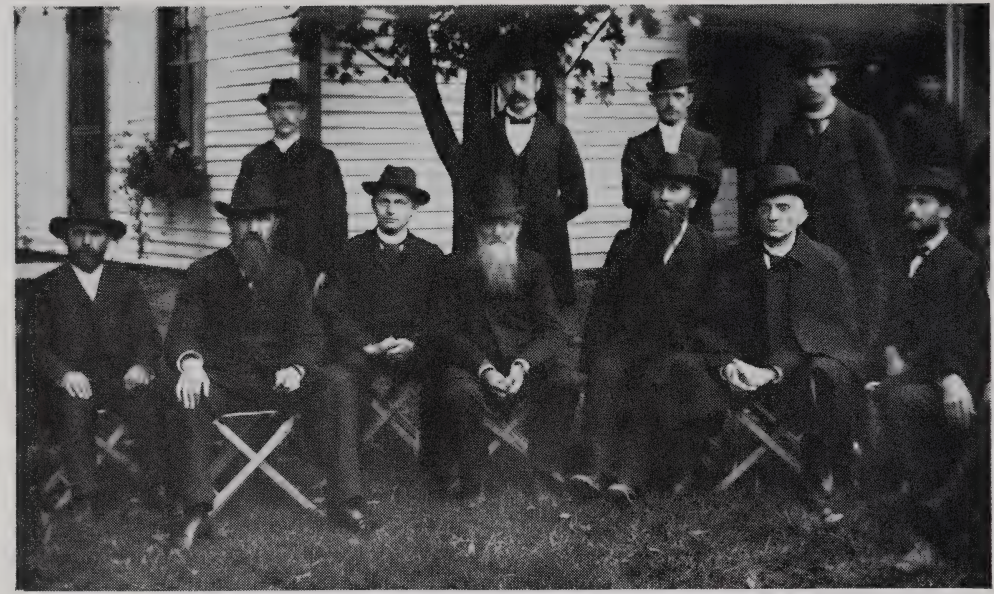
After eating lunch, the children played in the clearing behind the school, but they did not have the swings, slides, and other play equip-



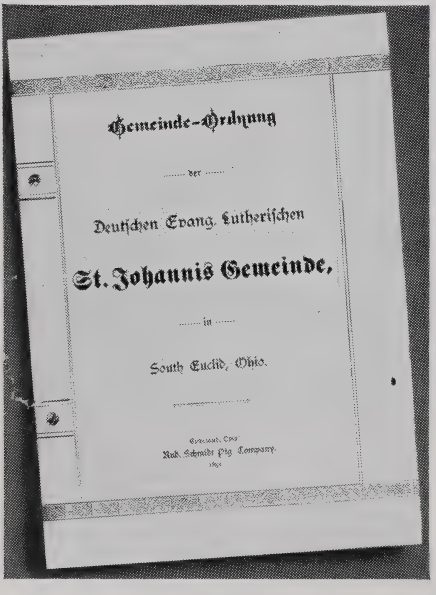
Reading from left to right; Back Row: Fred Elbrecht, Richard Lossner, William Wischmeyer, Fred Fark, Henry Kuhlman; Middle Row: Christ Obrock, Nora Fark, Martha Schaefer, Louise Prasse, Teacher Hoffmeyer, Mathilda Faust, Minnie Melcher, Henrietta Prasse, John Abil; Seated: Edward Prasse, Mary Bindbeutel, Willy Nitske. (School photo taken in 1889).



Reading from left to right; Top Row: Martha Schaefer, Louis Melcher, ________ Pepke, Martin Brueggemyer; 2nd Row: Clara Brueggemyer, Minnie Melcher, Augusta Holsing, Clara Staffeld, Lydia Prasse, Martha Brueggemyer, Louis Emshoff; Third Row: John Hoffmeyer, Carl Hauschild, Alvina Obrock, Dora Dill, Minnie Huge, Maudie Scherer, ________ Scherer, Nora Fark Christian Fibich, Catherine Hauschild, Teacher Hoffmeyer, John Schnitker, Albert Dill, Mary Reker; Fourth Row: August Schwentker, Henry Linnert, Mathilda Faust, Louise Prasse, Hattie Prasse; Fifth Row: Julius Huge, ________ Fark, Paul Faust, Ida Prasse, Emelie Eckert, Mary Linnert, Hannah Melcher, Louise Melcher, Clara Fielitz, Martha Melcher, Mary Huelsman, Ernst Hoffmeyer; Sixth Row: Fred Elbrecht, John Abil, ________ Wachs, Will Huge, John Melcher, Christ Obrock, Walter Lossner, Ed Prasse, Louis Fielitz, ________ Linnert, ________ Huelsman, Fritz Hoffmeyer, ________ Pepke, Ed Linnert, Henry Kuhlman; Seventh Row: Gottfried Obrock, Richard Lossner. (School photo taken in 1891.)



A group of pastors who met at St. John on October 9, 1892. From left to right, Standing: M. Ilse, Sr., H. P. Eckhardt, F. W. Husmann, J. Wefel; Sitting: ____________, J. H. Niemann, ______ Kretzmann, A. Ernst, ____________, C. M. Zorn, P. Schwan, H. Schlesselmann.



Gemeinde-Ordnung

der

Deutſchen Evang. Lutheriſchen

St. Johannis Gemeinde,

in

South Euclid, Ohio.

Rud. Schmidt Ptg Company

After review of the Constitution in 1891, the congregation had the amended regulations printed in booklet form shown at left.

ment, which has been placed on this same ground in recent years for use of the pupils. In winter, they brought their sleds and coasted down the small hill at the entrance to the cemetery.

The afternoon session from 1:00 to 3:00 consisted of English grammar and literature, as well as history, and geography. Art instruction was limited to freehand drawing of maps, and the frills of modern education were entirely absent.

Paper and pens were scarce, and the children mostly used slates. They sat on long benches; to the back of each bench was attached a long, slanted board on which the children in the row behind wrote.

Heat was limited to a coal stove (mischievous boys sometimes filled it with slack so that it would smoke) and the four coal oil lamps, attached to the walls, were rarely lit, even on the darkest winter days.

The school term began on Easter Monday and the day before Palm Sunday traditionally served as open house. Parents were invited to hear their children recite and see samples of their work. Vacation was generally limited to a month in July. Report cards were not issued until 1896 when quarterly reports were begun.

School attendance records were kept in Teacher Hoffmeyer's fine hand, as were the church records, for he also served as secretary.

On Sundays, he played the organ in the church, and he was the first to organize a regular choir. Members included Emma Brueggemyer, Heinrich Schroeder, Bertha Hauschild, Edward Dill, Edward Schroeder, Josef Melcher, Martha Melcher, and Hannah Rolf.

The congregation continued to increase steadily, and as more newcomers joined and some of the younger generation grew up and joined the church, feeling arose that the 25-year-old church constitution should be revised. Objection arose from some of the older members, precipitating several heated sessions in the fall of 1891, but the amended constitution was approved at a meeting on November 8.

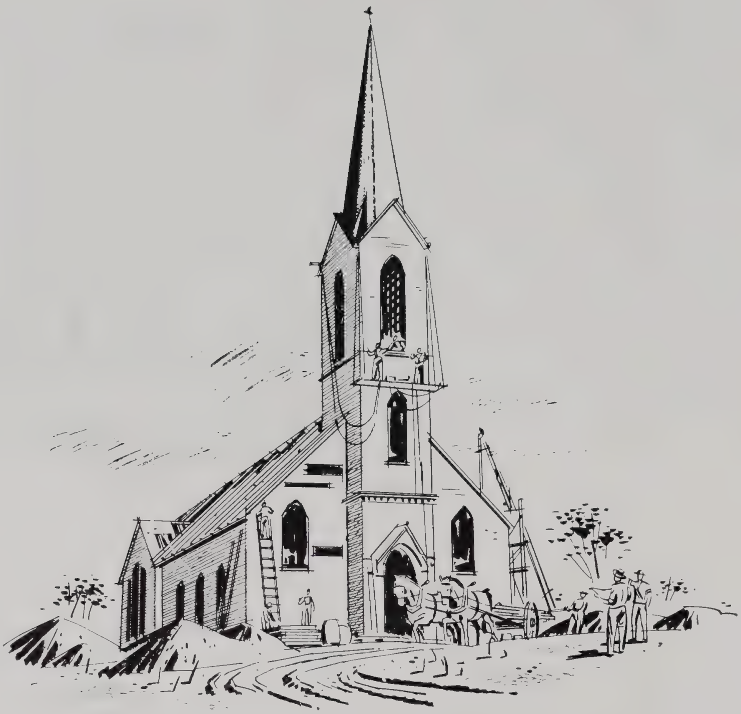
Another form of excitement struck the congregation that year. Thieves broke into the church and stole some of the communion ware. No trace of the vessels was ever found; however the loss was covered by insurance.

The congregation was saddened two years later when Pastor Ernst came before them and asked them to release him after 12 years service. Now 78, he had decided to retire. The members showed their affection for their aged pastor by presenting him with a pulpit Bible.

Reverend Heinrich Schlesselmann

Pastor Heinrich Schlesselmann was then called by the congregation from Friedheim, Ind. A graduate of the Missouri Synod seminary at St. Louis, he had studied there after coming to this country from Germany where he was born in 1846. He was ordained at Arcadia, Ind., in 1869, and served there until 1875, when he went to Reynolds, Ind., serving the congregation of St. James there and also the Trinity congregation at nearby Goodland. In 1881, he went to Bremen, Ind., and from there to Friedheim. He was installed as pastor of St. John on August 20, 1893.

While serving at Reynolds, Pastor Schlesselmann had aided his congregation in the erection of a new church; he soon realized that he faced the same task in South Euclid.



Chapter Four

On November 17, 1893, the voters of St. John met to consider the question of providing more room for church—and school—purposes. Discussion led to a decision to build a new church if enough subscriptions could be raised.

The congregation was divided into five districts, and five members were elected to serve as a building committee: Ernst Melcher, Wilhelm Emshoff, Wilhelm Moeller, Edward Schroeder, and Heinrich Prasse. Four young men were also appointed to organize a campaign among the young people: Friedrich Prasse, Ernst Schmidt, Ernst Leppelmeyer, and Heinrich Dremann.

But it was Pastor Schlesselmann, himself, who did most of the soliciting. Energetic and cheerful, he traveled the length and breadth of his new territory, seeking pledges and getting acquainted with the members.

At the next meeting, a month later, the solicitors were able to report that subscriptions amounted to $7,069, and the congregation voted to go ahead with the construction. The finished plans were for a building typical of the country architecture of the times, but rather strikingly like that erected at Reynolds, when Pastor Schlesselmann had served there.

Four bids were received at the next meeting on January 29, 1894. A. J. Hansen received the contract for his low bid of $5,198, (the highest bid was $5,675) and March 4 was set as the date of a cornerstone laying ceremony.

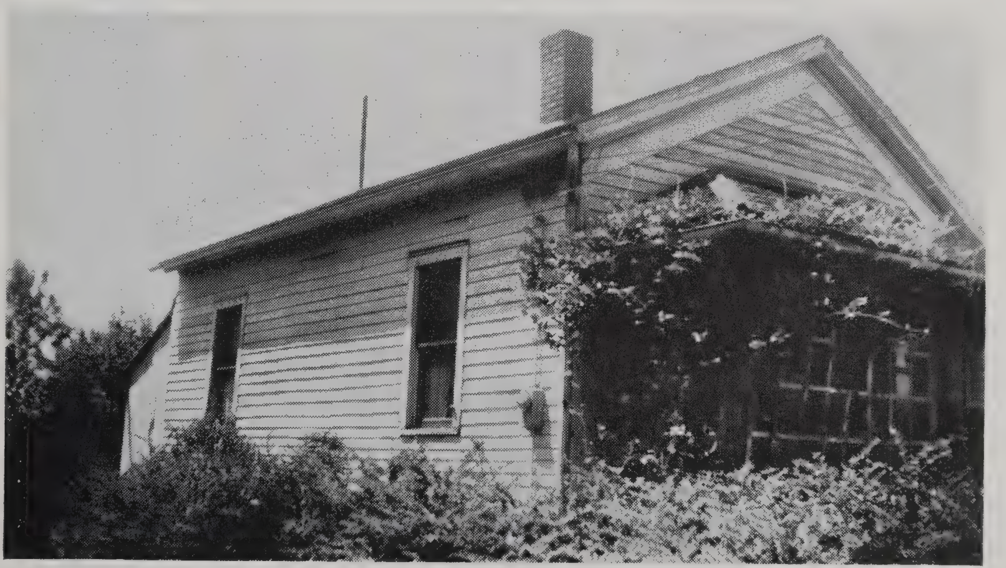
Realizing that the building of a new church was a community as well as congregational event, the voters decided to have an English as well as a German sermon and invited their neighbors.

The English sermon was given by Dr. Henry Rimbach, who at that time was attempting to found an English-speaking Missouri Synod congregation in Cleveland. He chose a highly appropriate text, "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation stone, a tried stone, a precious stone, a sure foundation" (Isaiah 28:16). Pastor Schlesselmann gave the German sermon.

Throughout the spring and summer, construction continued. By June 10 it had progressed to the point where the congregation was able to set the 10th Sunday after Trinity as the date of the dedication service.

Dr. Schwan, the synod president, who had helped to found St. John and kept close watch on the church through the years, was asked to speak at the morning service on dedication day. He chose for his text the 84th Psalm, "How amiable are thy tabernacles, Oh Lord of Hosts."

The afternoon service was a joint celebration, which also honored Pastor Schlesselmann on the 25th anniversary of his installation into the ministry. Dr. Johann Niemann was the speaker.



The first church erected by congregation in 1854 and moved to 1272 Green Road in 1894.

Elizabeth Brueggemyer who married Joseph Melcher, Oct. 11, 1894. Their wedding was the first solemnized in the new church.

The community was again invited to the evening service, and the sermon was in English. Speaker was Professor Richard Bischoff, president of the seminary at Ft. Wayne, whose son was to become pastor of St. John 29 years later.

When the financial report on the new building was read several months later, total collection for the new church was found to be $8,431.40. Of this, $1,300 had been raised by the young people, $296 by the school children and ladies, and $177.32 was contributed at a special collection at the dedication services.

The amount was almost perfect, for the total cost was found to be $8,457.68, including all furnishings and extras including grass seed. The church bell cost $253.60; pews, $516; window glass, $325; furnace, $201.40; and pump organ, $599.80. (The task of pumping the organ fell to Teacher Hoffmeyer's sons and the Obrock boys from Bluestone road.) The figure also included the cost of remodeling the old church for use as a school.

The building continued to have some use as a church for several years, however, for the Swedish Lutherans, who had settled in the Bluestone area to work in the stone quarries, asked permission to hold one service there every four weeks. In 1898, they built a Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church on the banks of Euclid Creek. The church was dismantled in 1930 when the land was purchased by the Metropolitan Park Board, and many of its members eventually joined St. John.

Conversion of the old church into a school meant that the former school, which had been the first building erected by the congregation, no longer was of use. It was sold to Heinrich Prasse, who moved it onto Green road at what is today 1272. It is now the Jack residence.

With the greater space in the new edifice, two customs came into being. One was the Christmas tree. The first tree was placed in the sanctuary that Christmas, and the custom has generally been followed each year.

The other change was in regard to funerals. With the wider aisles, it was now possible to bring the coffins into the church for services before burial. The first coffin which was carried into the church was that of young Heinrich Fibich.

A few weeks later came the funeral of Pastor Ernst. After retiring, he lived in Cleveland and spent much of his time composing a hymn for his funeral based on Luke 2:29 "Lord, now lettest thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word." This was sung at the services which followed his death on January 20, 1895. He was buried in the church cemetery and in 1897 a tombstone was purchased for his grave with a collection taken up among the congregation.

In 1897, the voters decided to build a new barn at a cost of $200, and in 1899, they began to discuss the erection of a new parsonage. Subscriptions for $1600 were pledged and bids asked, but building was postponed when the lowest bid submitted was $2576.25.

Two years later, the question was reopened. Total subscription now amounted to $2060.26, of which the ladies collected $403.25. On August 5, 1901, the contract to build the new parsonage was let to Charles Rush for $1985. Total cost for the nine-room house, which stands between the new church and the site of the first parsonage, came to $2083.10.

St. John has held services to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the synod in 1897, and in 1903 came their own opportunity for a golden anniversary celebration. As speakers, they decided to invite the sons of two former pastors, both of whom had entered the ministry. Pastor E. C. Kuehn spoke at the morning service and chose for his text, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad" (Psalms 126:3). In the evening, Pastor F. W. Husmann preached the sermon, using for his text, "In all places where I record my name, I will come unto thee and I will bless thee" (Exodus 20:24).

Ending a decade which had seen the building of a new church, parsonage, and barn, and the remodeling for a new school, as well as the continued growth of the congregation, St. John started on its second fifty years.

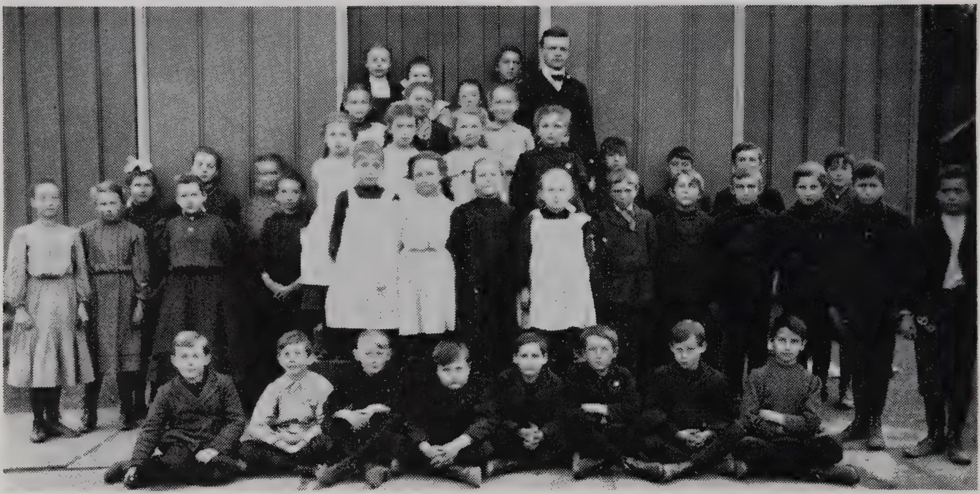
Chapter Five

Less than two weeks after he led his congregation in the celebration of their 50th anniversary, Pastor Schlesselmann died unexpectedly of typhoid fever. At the funeral services in St. John a dozen pastors from Cleveland formed a choir to sing Hymn 601 from the Lutheran Hymnal, "All Men Living Are But Mortal". Burial was in Lafayette, Ind.

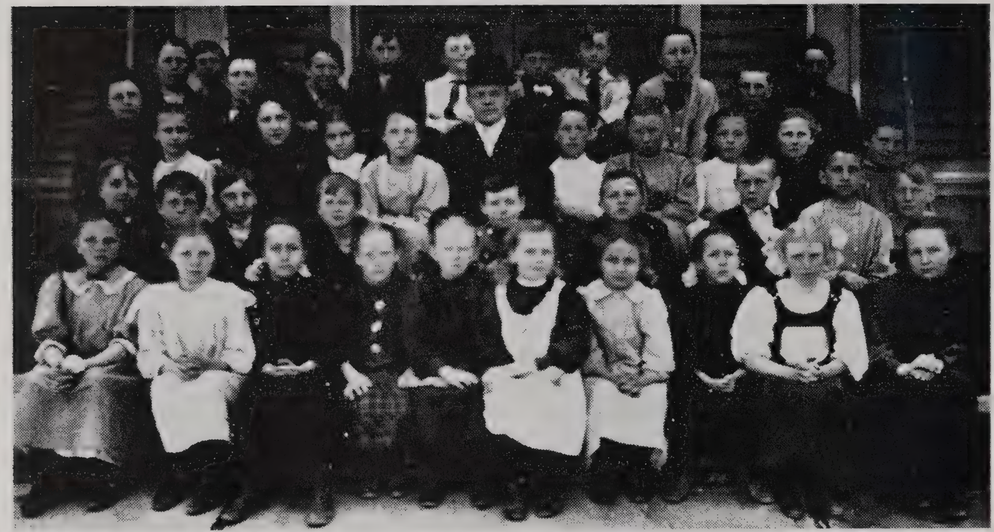
Caught without any plans for a successor, the shocked congregation asked Rev. P. Schwan, son of the former Synod president, to be vacancy pastor, and then began looking for suitable candidates. Their task was doubled at their October meeting when Teacher Hoffmeyer asked to be released to accept a call to Vincennes, Ind.

In December, the church was able to secure a new pastor when Rev. H. M. Zorn accepted the call, but did not obtain a teacher until March of the following year.

Rev. Mr. Zorn was the first pastor of St. John who had not been born in Germany, but neither was he a native of the United States. He was born in East India in 1873 where his father, Rev. C. M. Zorn, was serving as one



Girls standing, reading left to right. Back Row: Louise Fark, Lydia Smith, Emilia Melcher; Front Row: Emilia Libby, Clara Melcher, Lilly Wishmeyer, Elenore James. Boys standing, Back Row; Henry Faust, Harold Rolf, William Schwentker, Edgar Kroeger; Front Row: Arthur Fielitz, Clarence Melcher, Albert Brock, Karl Melcher, Rupert Schroeder, Herbert Fibich. On the Steps: Back Row: Dora Leppelmeier, Esther Miller, Odelia Hauschild, Teacher Edward Bewie; Third Row: Esther Leppelmeier, Julia Hauschild, Edna Miller; Second Row: Bertha Melcher, Edna Eckert, Margaret Rolf, Bertha Fielitz, Marie Libby; First Row: Edna Elbrecht, Esther Jones, Helena Faust, Emma Henderson; Boys Sitting: __________ Henderson, Henry Brueggeman, Richard Melcher, Maurice Dill, Arden Rowland, Emil Smith, Theodore Leppelmeier, Edward Miller. (Class photo about 1905.)



Reading left to right, Back Row: Clarence Melcher, Henry Brueggeman, George Brueggemyer, Herbert Hauschild, Rupert Schroeder, Maurice Dill, __________ __________, Alden Hare, Elmer Linnert, Elmer Grever, Martin Herbkersman; Third Row: Julia Hauschild, Esther Leppelmeier, Odelia Hauschild, Emily Dill, Edna Miller, Teacher Edward Bewie, Marie Libby, Clara Melcher, Edna Elbrecht, Margaret Rolf, Edna Eckert; Second Row: Joe Deutschman, Rudy Felietz, Herman Schwentker, Harry Klaustermeyer, Carl Zorn, Fred Fark, Ted Leppelmeier, Edward Miller, Richard Melcher; First Row: Bertha Fielitz, Bertha Melcher, Minnie Herbkersman, Mary Hall, Emma Henderson, Helena Faust, Florentenna Leppelmeier, Margaret Herbkersman, Henrietta Wespeaker, Esther Jones.

Typical classroom scene about 1911 in the second church building, which was converted to a schoolroom after the erection of the present church. Edward Bewie, teacher.

Reading from left to right, first row: Loretta Libby, Ben Schroeder, John Thomas, Second row: Herbert Meier, Robert Zorn, Norma Bewie, Margaret Bindbeutel, Ruth Zorn, Clarence Miller. Standing: Vincent Lamp, Teacher Estella Faust, Waldemar Prasse. Third row: Theodore Huge, Clarence Herbkessman, Clarence Leppelmeier, Earl Fark, Julia Smith, Mabel Fark, Elmer Melcher. Fourth row: Dorothy Smith, Raymond Patzwald, ________ ________, Mona Elbrecht.

Pastor and Mrs. C. M. Zorn

of the first Missouri Lutheran missionaries in the Orient. The son came to the United States for his education and was graduated from the seminary in St. Louis in 1894. Ordained and installed at Immanuel Church in Van Wert, O., on September 9, 1893, he served at Zion Church in Columbus before coming to St. John where he was installed on January 23, 1904. His wife was the daughter of Pastor Rimbach, who had preached at the cornerstone-laying ceremony in '93; and Pastor Zorn's father had visited South Euclid as is shown by his presence in the photograph on page 20.

The new teacher at St. John was a native Clevelander. Edward Bewie was born in the city in 1879 and attended the Vorschule (Cleveland Lutheran Prep) and the Synod's teachers college at Addison, Ill. He was teaching at Hamilton, O., when he was called to St. John on a provisory basis. (The appointment was confirmed that summer.)

The community to which the two men came had changed greatly in the decade past. 1898 had seen the start of the Cleveland & Eastern Railway Co., the first step in the procession of events which was to change South Euclid from a rural to a suburban area. The red cars were a familiar sight along Mayfield road as they carried passengers, freight, and mail from Cleveland to Chardon.

With the beginning of convenient transportation into Cleveland, South Euclid lost much of its isolated character; more and more fraternization between the German settlers and their English-speaking neighbors took place. Gradually the members of St. John began anglicizing their names. With the native-born second generation, English became the primary tongue.

The new pastor was quick to see this, and in March he proposed that an English service be held in the evening every two weeks. Teacher Hoffmeyer had made a step in this direction when he read the Gospel for the following Sunday to his pupils each week in English; but this was the first time, outside of the two community services in the new building, that English was used in the church.

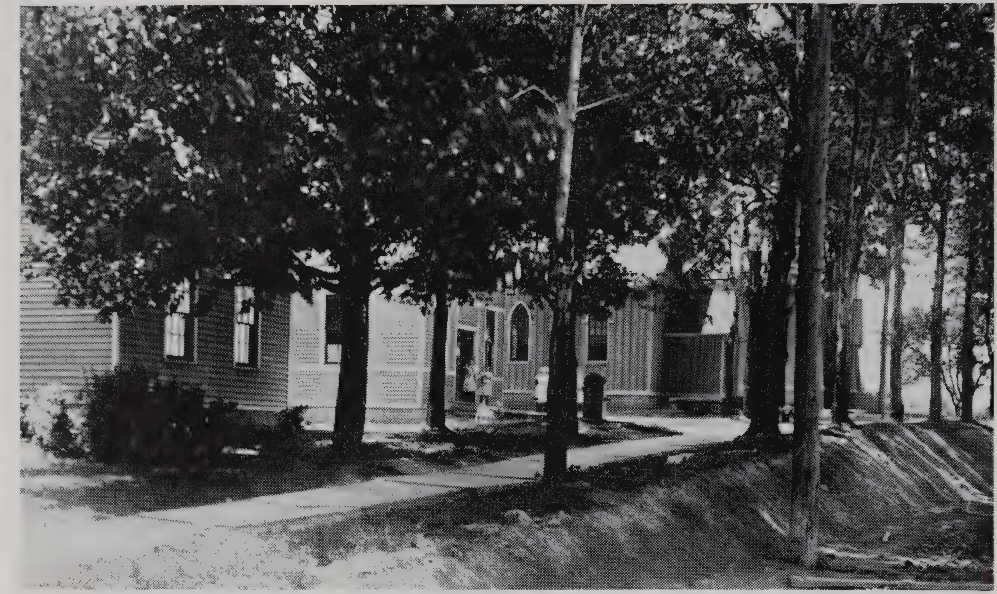
In an effort to help the young people remain constant to their religion under the stress of the changing environment, Pastor Zorn organized the first young peoples society of St. John. The first meeting was held April 6, 1904, and the pastor was elected to serve as president. Other officers for the first year were: Henry Hauschild, vice president; Tillie Faust, secretary; Emilie Eckert, assistant secretary; William Prasse, treasurer; Fred Elbrecht, assistant treasurer. Kathryne Hauschild, Clara Bruggemeier, and Teacher Bewie served on the program committee.

Another sign of the changing times came the following August when the voters decided to call a lady teacher to handle the lower grades. Miss Elizabeth Polack of Cleveland accepted the position.

The next year brought a further revision of the constitution and also the decision to form a new cemetery association. The cemetery was renovated and enlarged, and an attempt made to start an endowment fund, which failed to materialize. However,

One of the old "red cars" at a stop in downtown Cleveland around the turn of the Century.

Inter-urban station at Gates Mills, Ohio



Church property as of 1911. Building at left was used as teacherage; later rented and still in use at time of Centennial. Next is the one-room school for primary grades erected in 1906 on site of the first church; beyond that the second church building, used as a school after erection of present church (the entrance of which can be seen at the extreme right). One-room school and second church building were razed when present brick school building was completed.

fees for the maintenance of the grounds were fixed, and a low price set for lots to encourage purchase.

The voters decided to change the date for the opening of the school term from April to September to conform with the public schools, and also to build a small schoolhouse for Miss Polack's classes. She had been sharing the large schoolroom in the former church with Mr. Bewie and the overcrowding made teaching difficult. A small, one-room building was erected on the site left vacant by the removal of the first church. Individual desks were purchased for the children in both buildings from the Cleveland Board of Education.

Miss Polack remained at St. John until 1909 when she asked for her release. Her successor, Miss Schust, taught at St. John for only a few months as did Miss Elizabeth Jordan, who succeeded her. In 1911, Miss Estelle Faust was hired. She taught until 1916, then was succeeded by Mrs. Harald Arnesen.

The "new" church, now 17 years old, and no longer deserving of the adjective, underwent its first redecorating in 1910 at a cost of $525. The interior walls were frescoed and the woodwork painted. Additional furnishings purchased at Sterling & Welsh brought the total to $681.85. The young people also wired the church and schools for electricity, and the large school was renovated with beaverboard.

Next big project for the young men and women came in 1914 when they joined with the newly-formed Ladies Aid Society to rebuild the pastor's barn into a social hall.

The remodeling of the hall was just one of the many early projects of the

Ladies Aid, which has compiled a remarkable record during its 40 years of service to the church.

This was the first formal organization of the distaff members of St. John, although the women had long been active in church affairs. They held their own fund-raising drives during the building campaigns and had also met for charitable work. During the 90's Mrs. Schlesselman and Mrs. Hoffmeyer organized a sewing circle which met at the parsonage and sewed for the foreign missions.

Charter members who joined the group at its first meeting in 1913 were:

Mrs. Edward Bewie, Mrs. Carl Brueggemeier, Mrs. Fred Detering, Mrs. Hy. Blase, Mrs. Fred Elbrecht, Mrs. Chris Emshoff, Mrs. George Eckert, Mrs. Henry Faust, Mrs. Roy Hawthorne, Mrs. B. F. Hitchcock, Mrs. Gust Hoerr, Mrs. Ernst Hauschild, Mrs. Julia Hauschild, Mrs. Carl Hauschild, Mrs. Miles Jones, Mrs. Frank Klaustermeier, Mrs. Louis Lamp, Mrs. Henry Lossner, Mrs. Walter Lossner, Mrs. William F. Miller, Mrs. Walter Miller, Mrs. John Miller, Mrs. Adolph Melcher, Mrs. Joseph Melcher, Mrs. John Melcher, Mrs. William Prasse, Mrs. Fred Prasse, Mrs. Carl Rolf, Mrs. William Smith, Mrs. Julius Schmidt, Mrs. Henry Schroeder, Mrs. E. T. Schroeder, Mrs. Charles Stuem, Mrs. H. M. Zorn, Mrs. Alfred Melcher, Mrs. William Elbrecht, Mrs. Louis Emshoff, Mrs. John Dremann, Mrs. William Fibich, Mrs. Hy Huge, Mrs. Henry Dremann, and Mrs. William Brueggemeier. Seven of these women are still active in the church.

Purpose of the Ladies Aid as recorded in their constitution was to "promote sociability among the women of the home church and to practice charity within the congregation and the church at large."

Early meetings were held in the homes of members, but the women soon began to meet at the church. To help finance the treasury, they sold apron patterns, recipes, and articles which they made by hand. The Aid's most popular project, the sauerkraut suppers, were inaugurated early. The suppers, which were always held on the Saturday before the fall election, first took place in Green Road School, next at Victory Park School and later in the auditorium of the parish school.

The first meeting in the remodeled social hall was held on April 15, 1915, with a banquet in the evening at which the men collected $20 towards a new cookstove to replace the gasoline relic. The following November, the ladies entertained the pastoral conference in the hall.

Encouraged with their first big effort, the ladies presented plants and a ton of coal to the church at Christmastime, and also installed a telephone, the first, in the parsonage. However, their increased activity brought one complaint from the men. Following the abandoning of the old rule that the sexes must sit separately in church, the gentlemen asked the ladies to remove their hats during the services. They just couldn't see past the stylishly large chapeaus.

In addition to their local efforts, the Ladies Aid also took part in synodical activities. They sent clothes and money to the foreign and colored missions, sewed for the orphanage at Indianapolis, canned fruit for Christmas gifts and during the war worked for the Red Cross. A representative from St. John was also appointed to the board of lady managers of Lutheran Hospital in Cleveland.

Another big event of 1915 was the organization of the English Sunday School under the form still largely in use today. Appointed the first superintendent was Edward P. Kerruish, who had since 1907 been serving as head of the "Christianlehre", as the Sabbath instruction in the German language, first organized by Pastor Kuehn, was known. Mr. Kerruish was succeeded in 1917 by Gust Hoerr.

The cemetery association appointed in 1905 had sought to maintain the burial plot, but found their efforts hampered by lack of definite funds. The association, realizing that improvements must be made, put the question before the congregation which decided on March 4, 1917, to form a separate corporation, "The St. John Lutheran Cemetery Association," and deed over 9.878 acres for present and future burials to the new group.

The association named L. D. Lamp as its first chairman and Teacher Bewie as secretary. At the next meeting five trustees were named: John Fielitz, Fred Prasse, Pastor Zorn, William Keske and Julius Patzwald. Pastor Zorn was elected president, Keske secretary and Prasse treasurer.

The articles of incorporation were filed on March 17 and William Evers drew up the deed transferring title to the property.

While the congregation was making plans for the new association, two other developments which would further draw St. John into the community, were coming to a climax. One was the incorporation of the Village of South Euclid; the other, America's entry into World War 1.

Chapter Six

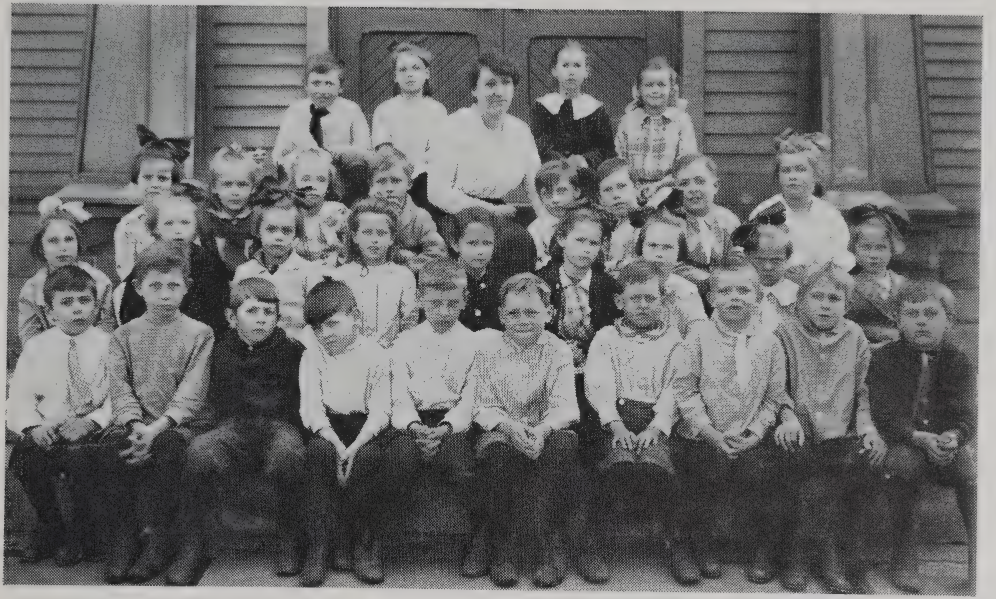
With America's entry into World War I and the incorporation of the Village of South Euclid, St. John Lutheran Church lost forever its nationalistic and rural character.

The members of St. John escaped most of the anti-German hysterics which hit the large cities, including Cleveland. But the agitation which reached the area was the chief cause for the introduction of English into the weekly church services. At the voters' meeting on June 30, 1918, it was decided to have a Sunday morning English service and one in German. In setting down the decisions of that meeting, Teacher Edward Bewie, who served as secretary, recorded the minutes in English, the first time in the history of the church that had been done, with the exception of one incident in the 1850's. However, Teacher Bewie continued to alternate the records in English and German for as long as he remained at St. John.

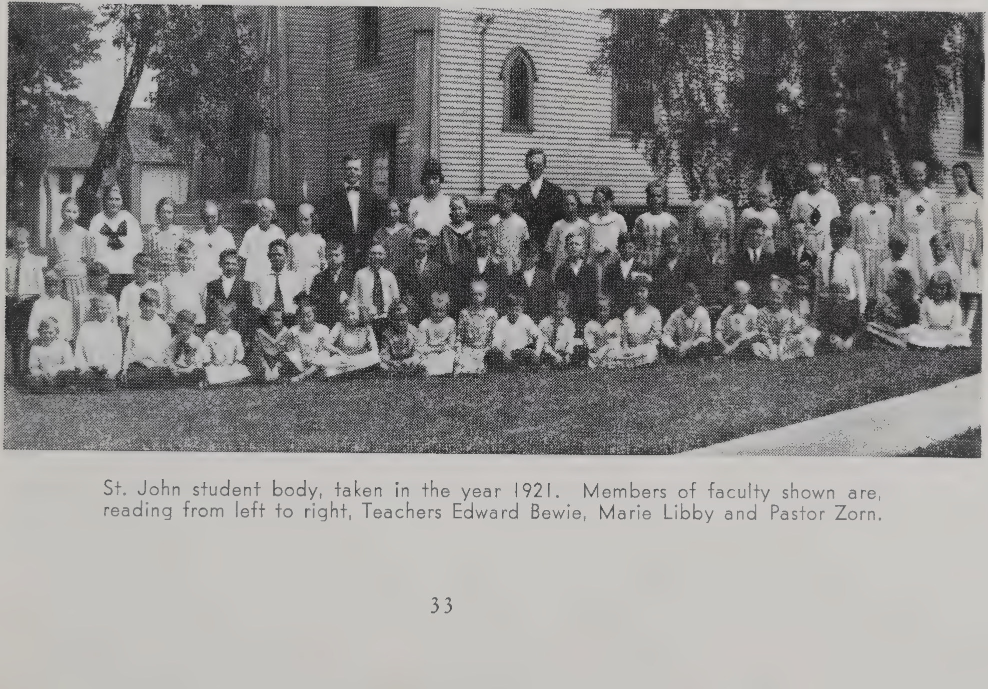
Members of the congregation were also vitally interested in the court battle which began in the state of Michigan to abolish parochial schools. The issue eventually reached the Supreme Court which later (in 1923) reaffirmed the right of parents to send their children to schools of their choosing, providing the schools met the state requirements.

The voters of St. John had an opportunity to assert their own stand on the question of religious education in the summer of 1918 when the newly formed South Euclid Board of Education asked to meet with the vestry to discuss the purchase of St. John School for state purposes.

"We mean to maintain our own school," the congregation replied, "and we shall need those buildings."



Reading from left to right, first row: Paul Melcher, Walter Lamp, Ernest Gesell, Martin Dill, Harold Meier, Harold Reinker, Herbert Batig, Julius Dreman, Carl Fark, Arthur Reker. Second row: Frieda Keyerleber, Margaret Meier, Esther Reker, Florence Smith, Anna Schroeder, Helena Schneider, Julia Prasse, Hilda Patzwald, Bertha Grosser. Third row: Gretchen Zorn, Mabel Wischmeier, Marie James, Arthur Elbrecht, Walter Keske, Norman Libby, Herman Grosser, Laura Hauschild. Fourth row: Ernest Huge, Lillian Bindbeutel, Teacher Marie Libby, Helena Meier, Loretta Prasse. (Class photo 1918.)



St. John student body, taken in the year 1921. Members of faculty shown are, reading from left to right, Teachers Edward Bewie, Marie Libby and Pastor Zorn.

William Fark

Henry G. Faust

Arthur Herbert Fielitz

The formation of the South Euclid School Board was one of the results of the incorporation of the Village of South Euclid. The incorporation followed that of neighboring Lyndhurst whose voters decided on August 17, 1917, to break away from Euclid Township and form their own municipality. Residents of South Euclid voted on October 13, 1917, to be incorporated.

Members of the congregation of St. John were active in the incorporation of both villages. Their sons took part in the war effort. Among those who saw service were Henry Eckert, Herbert Fibich, William Fark, Arthur Fielitz, Henry Faust, Sam James, Elmer Linnert, Karl Melcher, Clarence Melcher, Carl Rolf and Roland Schroeder.

The Ladies Aid sewed for the Red Cross and other members helped on the home front. Pastor Zorn was asked to serve as a chaplain in army camps, but the congregation resolved not to release him.

End of the war brought joy to the congregation because none of the members had been killed, but it was shortlived. William Fark died of wounds received in France, and Henry Faust and Arthur Fielitz died at camps of influenza.

The great flu epidemic also hit St. John. Vestry meetings and worship services were canceled because of it.

1919 found the parishioners wondering what the incorporation of South Euclid, coupled with the end of the war-time restrictions, would do to change the community. The changes came quickly. Streets were laid out and new houses were built. Many members of the congregation sold the farms, which their grandparents had bought on coming from Germany, to real estate developers.

Automobiles were now frequently seen on Mayfield Road and the county commissioners decided to widen the highway. Their decision necessitated the removal of the row of maple trees which had stood in front of St. John for over 50 years. The congregation voted to terrace the frontage and built two stairways, one leading down from the church, the other from the parsonage. (At the same time, they decided to have plumbing installed in the house.) After 1925 when the red cars bowed to the growing popularity of the automobile and the line was discontinued, Mayfield Road was widened again and took on its present-day appearance.

At the same time that frontage of the church was being altered, St. John underwent a far more important change—that of its pastor and teacher.

At the meeting on April 2, 1922, Pastor Zorn asked and was granted his release to accept a call from Indianapolis. The first call to a successor was refused, then the congregation called the Rev. W. O. Bischoff, who was serving at Concordia Church in Conover, N. C. In June, Pastor Bischoff notified them of his acceptance.

The new pastor was the son of Dr. Rudolph A. Bischoff, one-time director of the Fort Wayne Concordia, who had spoken at the dedicatory service for the newly erected St. John Church in 1894. The son was born at Bingen, Ind., on March 25, 1889. His graduation from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis took place in 1912. He taught for a year at the Conover college before accepting the call to the church there. In 1914, he married Miss Clara Moehlmann, daughter of a Lutheran parochial school teacher and sister of a Lutheran minister.

Rev. W. O. Bischoff

At the meeting on July 22, 1922, it was announced that Pastor Bischoff had accepted the call, and Teacher Bewie also decided to tender his resignation to enter private business. (He is now employed by the Muehlhauser Bros. Piano Co., in Cleveland and lives on the west side.)

As one of his first duties, Pastor Bischoff assisted in the obtaining a new teacher. A call was accepted by Louis J. Wagner, who was serving as principal of St. Mathew's School in New Britain, Conn., and he came to St. John at the end of the year.

For Teacher Wagner, his new post meant a return to his native Mid-West. He was born in Monroe, Mich., on November 4, 1869, and attended parochial schools there before taking his teacher training at Addison. He served in Patterson, N. J., then spent 20 years as principal of St. Mathew's before coming to St. John.

After surveying the educational system at St. John, the new pastor and teacher decided to make two recommendations. The first was carried out at the annual meeting on January 7, 1923, when the voters agreed to elect a school board with three members, each to be chosen for a three-year term with one member to be elected each year. Members on the first board were Herbert Hoffmeyer, son of the former teacher, Fred Kemper, and Karl Melcher.

The second decision concerned the need for a new school. Of two frame buildings in use, one was over 60 years old and the other had been erected as a temporary structure. Lighting, heating, and sanitary accomodations were poor and there was serious overcrowding. Accordingly, the subject was placed before the voters at the April 8th meeting, and they decided on the erection of a new brick building as soon as funds could be raised. Subscriptions from members of the congregation were sought and by the October 14th meeting, it was reported that $15,000 had already been pledged.

On March 30, 1924, the congregation decided on the exact size of the building and agreed that it was to be located on Mayfield Road on the east side of the church property. By June the plans were ready. They called for a one-story building with four large classrooms and an auditorium-gymnasium behind, with lavatories and boilers in the basements. Included in the plans was the future building of a room for the Ladies Aid in the tower over the centered front entrance.

Bids for the construction, opened in July, were for $55,436; total subscription from members of the congregation stood at only $35,418. Dissension, which had been growing among some of the members of the congregation, who felt that the plans were too elaborate, came to a head; the resolution to build the school failed to receive a majority.

Some of the features of the plans were then eliminated and at the July 21st meeting, the congregation voted to go ahead with the construction at a cost of $47,355.

The vote still failed to find favor with a part of the congregation, and at the next meeting on October 24, violent quarreling broke out; two brethren threatened to go to court to prevent erection of the building because of the necessity of taking a mortgage to pay the unpledged balance. The question was argued at several meetings. All members agreed on the necessity of building the new school, but the actual decision of the size and cost was postponed.

In 1925, the subject of English services came up again. Feeling it a duty to their children and young people who might shirk Sunday services because of the unfamiliar language, the members of the congregation decided to have both German and English services each Sunday except on English Communion Sunday, when only the latter language would be used.

On April 26, 1926, Mrs. Arnesen announced that she would terminate her services as teacher at the end of the school year, and Miss Loretta Zorn was hired as her successor. The new teacher found that she would have only a short period as a teacher in the old frame building. On July 26, the congregation voted to build a four-room school, minus the gymnasium, two-story tower, and other special features, to place the new building behind the church and to sell 100 feet frontage, 125 feet deep, at the eastern end of the property at $450 a foot. A contract was let to Alfred Melcher for $34,400.

The new building was completed and ready for occupancy in the fall of 1927. The wooden schools, the barn, and the horse sheds behind the church had been torn down and the property took on the appearance it has retained to the present day.

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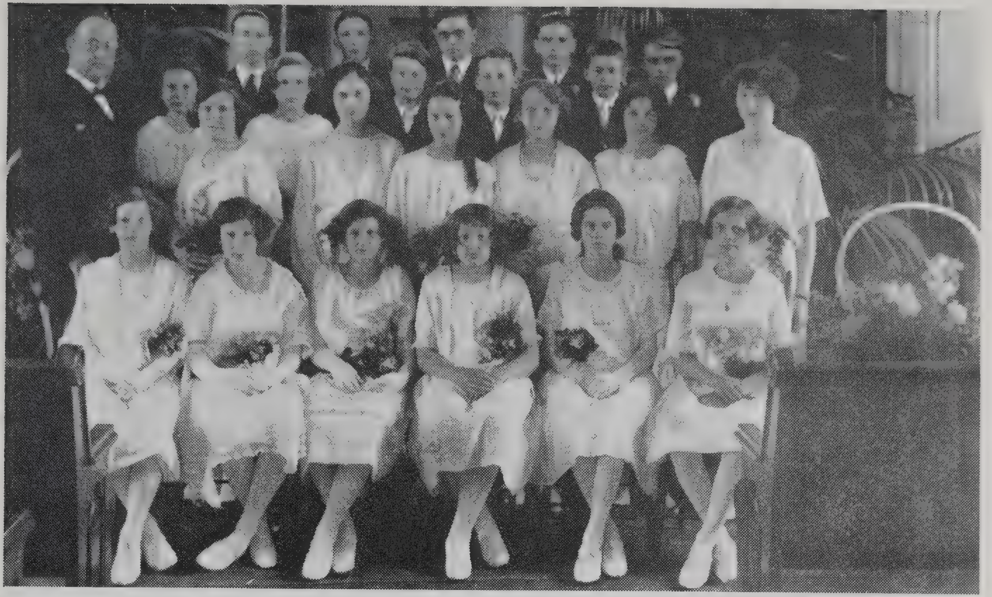
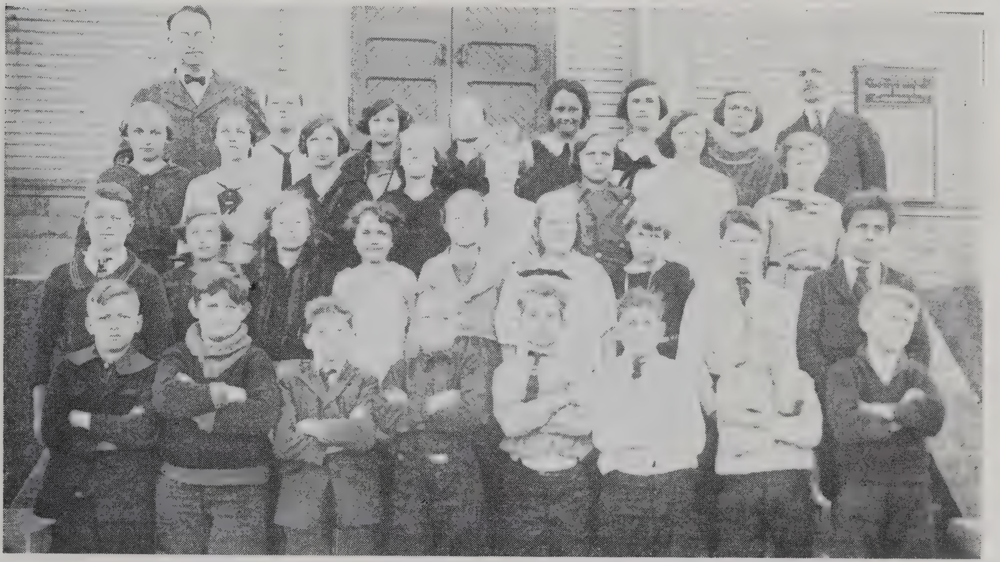


Confirmation Class of 1923. Reading left to right, standing, back row: Ray Hoagland, Carl Schroeder, Wilson Gruber, Carl Dill. Second row: Pastor Bischoff, Bertha Grosser, Hilda Patzwald, Carl Thomas, Sterling Hoagland, Edward Bischoff. Third row: Julia Prasse, Myrtle Hawthorn, Anna Schroeder, Mabel Wischmeyer, Mrs. James, Sylvia Wolfe. Seated: Margaret Meier, Frieda Keyerleber, Helena Schneider, Alma Elbrecht, Florence Smith, Esther Reker.



Class picture year 1924. Reading left to right, back row: Pastor Bischoff, Alma Elbrecht, Helen Schneider, Bertha Grosser, Ann Schroeder, Julia Prasse, Esther Reker, Teacher Louis J. Wagner. Second row: Mabel Wischmeier, Florence Smith, Frieda Keyerleber, Marie Hoffmeyer, Margaret Smith, Hilda Patzwald, Margaret Meier, Esther Batig. Third row: Carl Thomas, Louise Keske, Elizabeth Jones, Marian Kemper, Ruth Patzwald, Agnes Arnesen, Ruth Melcher, Walter Elbrecht, Walter Koester. Bottom row: Clarence Meier, Ernst Mauschild, Albert Gesell, John Kemper, Edward Melcher, Carl Gesell, Ernst Grosser, Edward Reker.

Chapter Seven

The year 1928 marked the diamond jubilee of St. John Lutheran Church. A day of celebration of the 75th anniversary was held in October. Pastor Zorn spoke in German at the morning services and in the afternoon a special English service was conducted by Rev. Husmann, son of the former pastor.

A month later, a special meeting of the congregation was held to adopt the new constitution. The constitution had been translated into English and copies distributed to the members several years earlier. Upon study, the congregation decided to amend several provisions.

The question of the sale of the 100-foot frontage came up the following year. On June 5th, the congregation decided to form a corporation to take over the land, which they had been unsuccessful in selling, for $35,000 at $100 a share. Their plans came to an abrupt halt before the month was out when the depression broke over America.

St. John was in poor condition to meet the financial upheaval; the church already had unpaid bills amounting to almost $1,000. The financial report submitted on January 12, 1930, showed an unpaid balance of $1,478.69. On January 16, the voters again decided to place the 100-foot frontage on the market, but there were no buyers.

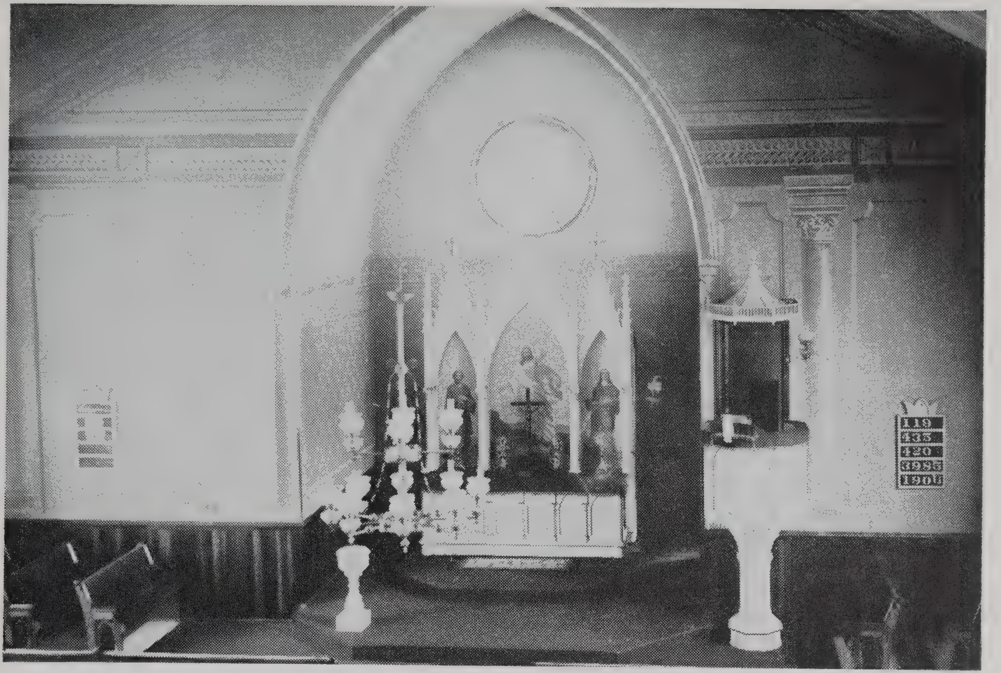
At the same meeting, Teacher Wagner announced that he wished to accept a call to Albany, N. Y., and his release was granted him. (He served there until his death in 1940 when he was buried in St. John Cemetery.)

At the meeting on May 19, the congregation voted to call Walter Schall, a young man who had taught for two years in Pittsburgh, then attended postgraduate courses at the University of Pittsburgh.

Also discussed at this meeting was the question of the redecoration of the church. The matter had been put off for several years because of finances, and the exterior and interior were in poor condition. However, members had gradually been making small gifts which were placed in a separate fund. On August 25, 1931, a special meeting was held at which the repainting of the church and parsonage was approved. Both buildings were repainted white. Also approved was the repair of the church roof and chimney. Bids were $375 and the balance of the $668 in the redecorating fund was set aside for the interior work.

On October 19, the Ladies Aid was authorized to proceed with plans for the interior decoration, and on April 18, 1932, the women reported their decisions. Walls were to be buff with a cream ceiling and a stenciled border on the wainscoting. A new altar and pulpit were to be installed at no charge and a new communion rail was also planned. Carpeting in the church had been donated by the Ladies Aid several years previous and was still in excellent condition. By summer, the work was complete and the congregation extended a vote of thanks to the Ladies Aid and to members who had donated flower vases, a cross, candelabra, hymn board, and altar and pulpit covers.

Although the redecoration program had come to a happy ending, other aspects of the financial situation continued to deteriorate. Letters and circulars to the congregation had little effect for most of the members had been struck by financial reverses. The fact that many of the families still



An interior view of the church as it appeared prior to 1930.

farmed all or part of the original homesteads prevented the actual want prevalent in many American homes, but there was little ready cash. The financial report in January, 1953, showed unpaid bills amounting to $1,895.90; increasing the problem was the debt for the new school. Little of principal had been paid off and with unpaid interest the debt amounted to $38,108.12, almost as much as the original cost.

By stringent economies, the congregation managed to keep abreast of the problem. Salaries of the pastor and teachers were reduced by 12½ percent, and during 1933 and 34 there were many months in which they were not paid. Non-members, whose children were attending St. John School, were visited and asked to contribute toward the cost of their children's education; these helped as they were able.

In an effort to cut the school fund debt, the church again attempted to sell the 100-foot frontage or to give it to creditors in payment of the debt. Neither plan was successful, but the church managed to make some headway in cutting down the principal and in most cases met the interest. However, the situation remained critical throughout the '30's.

In spite of its local problems, St. John continued to make contributions to the Synod finances, to the Lutheran radio programs which were bringing the Missouri Synod's message to thousands who had never heard it before, and to take up special collections for missions and other charities in the county, the nation, and abroad.

The 40th anniversary of the erection of the present church was celebrated on August 5, 1934. Rev. Dannerfeldt spoke at the morning services and Rev. Karl Zorn, son of the former pastor, in the evening. At the mission festival on August 14 at which the erection of

Confirmation Class June 4, 1933.
Reading left to right; Back Row: William Eckert, Pastor Bischoff, Harold Brueggemyer, Wilbur O'Riley, Granville Mailer, William Gruber. Front Row: Ethel Eckert, Hans Bischoff, Adele Nowjak, Clifford Reinker, Helen Faust.

the church was also observed, Rev. Sommerfeldt preached.

In 1935 Norman Libby, who had spent almost two decades as janitor, decided to retire. The custodial work was then assigned on a part-time basis. The former teacherage, which the janitor had been occupying, was redecorated and later rented with the frontage which the church had attempted to sell to Ronald Bemis, who has used the house as a residence and the land for nursery purposes.

Mrs. H. C. Rupprecht, the former Loretta Zorn, tendered her resignation as teacher on May 11, 1936 after serving St. John for a decade. Miss Edith Booster was appointed to succeed her.

By 1938, the financial picture of the church had brightened considerably. The debt in the church treasury, which had gone over the $3,000 mark in 1935, was down to $1200.

The Ladies Aid had been highly instrumental in effecting the reduction. From the proceeds of their annual sauerkraut suppers and other activities, they were able to contribute $2000 to the church treasury in 1935 and $100 in 1936. In 1937, they contributed $1,000 toward the school debt.

The subject of their diligent efforts came up for discussion at the voters meeting on January 7, 1938, and it was decided to plan a celebration in their honor. A surprise dinner was held the following December, at which husbands of the women served as waiters. They wore aprons and carried neatly folded napkins over their arms; each man, whether or not he smoked, had a large cigar in his mouth.

On October 23, two months previous, the 85th anniversary of the founding of the church had been celebrated. Rev. Zorn came from Indianapolis to preach to his former congregation at both the German and English services in the morning, and at the evening services Rev. Summerfeldt spoke.

Standing, reading left to right: Ethel Holsing, Esther Brueggemeier, Julia Eckert, Pearl Miller, Gertrude Giesler, Esther Gilbert, Mona Eckert, Augusta Jones, Clara Bischoff, Anna Hitchcock, Dorothy Miller, Estella Hoffmeyer, Freda Werner, Elfreda Schall, Emelie Elbrecht, Mathilda Faust, Antionette Schneider, Dora Faust, Greta Hoffmeyer, Anna Miller, Pauline Niemeier, Hattie Hauschild; Sitting: Lizzie Melcher, Hannah Prasse, Lydia Gesell, Robert Eckert, Emma Schroeder, Mary Finkemeyer, Mary Klaustermeyer, Otelia Keske, Clara Eickhoff, Ellen Brueggemyer, Emma Prasse. 1939 Ladies Aid.

Several repair projects were also carried out in 1938. The hot water tank in the school basement was replaced with an automatic heater and the church and the parsonage were painted. The church furnace was also repaired.

In February, 1939, the Ladies Aid announced to the congregation after the Sunday morning services that they wished to install new lighting fixtures in the church. Permission was granted. Exterior woodwork of the school was also painted several months later.

In the fall of 1939, officials of St. John began negotiating with the Cleveland Trust Co. to have the first mortgage on the school extended to pay off the second mortgage, which was held privately. At the annual meeting on January 21, 1940, a copy of the agreement between the church and the bank was placed in the minutes. Under the terms, the mortgage was extended to $15,000 to cover the smaller debt.

The annual meeting also brought the good news that all of the back salaries and other debts of the church had been met. St. John had safely weathered the most difficult financial decade in United States history.

Chapter Eight

In another action which signified the end of hard times, the congregation at a meeting on July 29, 1940, decided to restore the 12½ per cent salary cuts which had been made in the wages of the pastor and the teachers during the depression.

At the same meeting, Miss Edith Booster, who had been teaching the younger grades, handed in her resignation. The voters decided to hire Paul J. Glawe, a native of Cleveland's west side, who had been teaching at Trinity Lutheran School in Cape Girardeau, Mo., on a temporary basis. A year later they made the call permanent.

The new teacher received his elementary training at St. Mathew's School on the west side. He attended Lincoln High School for two years, then spent two years with the high school department and three years at the college department of Concordia Teachers College from which he was graduated in 1938. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Adelbert College of Western Reserve University in 1939.

In 1941, South Euclid received official notification that its population had passed 5000, and became officially a city. In June, a five-day "Howdy Neighbor" celebration was held with most of the ceremonies taking place at Victory Park School across from St. John.

The start of World War II brought the decision to end all German services at St. John. At the same meeting, an FM radio was purchased for the school, to be used for air raid warnings. The airplane had brought the threat of war close to the peaceful suburb.

The congregation quickly began to contribute its share to the war effort. Seventy-four young men of the church entered the service. Those who served included:

Theodore Eickhoff, William Gruber, George Eckert, Roy Hendershot, Louis Sears, Carl Smith, Robert Jones, Charles Gates, Arthur Schultz, Raymond Patzwald, Oswald Tinner, Howard Huelsman, Frederick Prasse, Wilbert Titgemeyer, Ralph Schneider, Norman Vernick, Roy Schwentker, Erwin Elbrecht, Clarence Fibich, Fred Fark, Paul Elbrecht, Carl Brueggemeyer, Alvin Tinner, Clarence Kanenberg.

Adele Nowjak, Hans Bischoff, Ralph Jones, Walter Kossman, Howard Fibich, Roy Prasse, Walter Nowjak, Edward Gesell, Hester Fibich, Richard Bischoff, George Pipes, Harold Brueggemeyer, Jesse James, Earl Link, Paul Keske, Walter Miller, Wallace Gilbert, Harold Miller, Robert Geisler, Donald Urban, John Werner, John Eckert, Raymond Haserodt, Norman Huelsman, Orville Wiltshire, Melvin Batig.

William Deutschmann, William Eckert, Paul Bischoff, William Fibich, Paul Miller, Norman Reker, Glen Eggleston, Sterling Tinner, Carl James, Karl Elbrecht, Norman Libby, Paul Giesler, Hugo Dahlgren, Paul Klaus, Clifford Reiker, Louis Reker, Franklin D'Amico, Russell Gilbert, Clifford Schneider, Robert Niemeyer, Edward Schultz, Edward Schroeder, Edward Kossman, Harold Titgemeyer.

War bond and scrap drives were held by the school children and the adults joined in the city's various homefront activities.

On June 12, 1942, the church steeple was struck by lightning. The bolt of lightning, which hit at 6:45 p. m., severely damaged the steeple. Board and slate were torn away, and

Picture taken after lightning struck the church steeple on June 12, 1942.

only the framework was left. The bolt followed electrical wiring through the church and blew out all fuse boxes. In the parsonage kitchen, Mrs. Bischoff had her back turned from the church but felt a severe shock.

First opinion was that the steeple must be removed; there had been talk of tearing it down lest a windstorm topple it over. But popular sentiment mounted to preserve South Euclid's most famous landmark. After receiving a report from Engineer F. C. Gallimore that the steeple was structurally sound, the congregation decided to have it repaired for $1,397.95, which was paid by the insurance. As an aftermath of the accident, the voters decided to more than double the insurance on all of the parish buildings: insurance on the church was raised from $2000 to $5000.

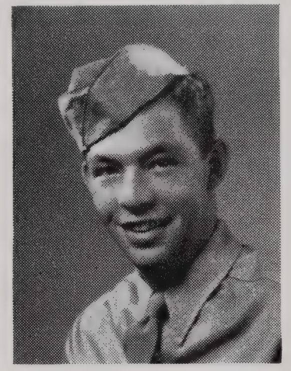
The ninetieth anniversary of the church was celebrated in 1943, with services on September 19. Pastor Zorn came from Indianapolis to speak at the morning service. In the afternoon, at the vesper service, the sermon was delivered by Rev. R. H. Schroeder, a graduate of St. John School.

The church was repainted in time for the celebration; the flagstone steps were also repaired that year and the parsonage redecorated.

As part of the anniversary program, a special school debt reduction fund was started and by the first of the year the remainder had been reduced to $3300. Another drive was held in the summer of 1944 at which $3,543 was raised to pay off the mortgage. The balance collected was placed in a special property repair and improvement fund. A year later, this fund, which had grown to $2000, was used for part of a series of extensive repairs on the school building. The rest of the $5000 cost of the repairs was raised in a house-to-house canvass.

On V-E Day and again on V-J Day, thanksgiving services were held at St. John. Again the congregation felt, as they had at the end of the first world war, that they had cause to rejoice; none of the young men had been killed in the fighting. But history repeated. Tragedy struck after the cessation of hostilities when Sgt. John Eckert was killed in a flight over China on January 29, 1946. The young airman was reported as missing and it was not until April that his body was found. Burial was in the American Military Cemetery in Shanghai, but the body was later returned to this country and buried at St. John.

To honor its returning servicemen, St. John decided to hold a welcome home banquet at the church hall; 210 members of the congregation attended, including 44 servicemen. Humorous speeches were made by four of the men. Norman Huelsman's talk was entitled, "The Peaceful Pacific — There's No Place Like Home". Roy Schwentker addressed the group on "The Advantages of Not Changing Clothes in North Africa for Three Months"; Carl Brueggemyer came through with "A Plug for the Navy and Miami, Fla.," and Norman Libby finished up with "England—John Bull Can Keep It". Main speaker was Pastor George Mennen of Akron, a former chaplain, who had served in the South Pacific.



Sgt. John Eckert

In 1946 the congregation also decided to clarify the confusion over the name of the church which had existed for many years. Records showed several names which had to be used on legal documents. To avoid complications, it was voted on October 28, to make the name St. John Lutheran Church.

1946 also saw the start of the annual stewardship meetings, which have become a popular feature of the church. The first meeting was set for the third Sunday in November. But before the date arrived, the chairman, Melvin Waldschmidt, and his committee foresaw the worth of these informal meetings of rededication to the service of Christ and suggested that two be held the following year. The number has gradually increased.

For South Euclid, the post war years meant a period of unprecedented residential growth, the fastest in any community in the state of Ohio. Streets laid out during the twenties and left in skeleton condition by the depression were suddenly doted with houses. New allotments were laid out.

St. John also faced expansion problems. Immediately after the war, the need for a playground for the children and a parking lot was realized. Meetings were begun in 1946. The congregation decided that as a start on the financing, they would set up a playground fund and equal the amount raised by the children on sales tax returns.

The housing shortage was also brought home to the church by the inability of teachers to find rental quarters at reasonable prices. In the summer of 1947, the congregation decided to buy a house at 1387 Dill Avenue, a mile from the church.

First to occupy the house was August F. Gerken and his family. He accepted a call to teach at St. John, following the resignation of Teacher Schall on July 17, 1947. Schall had received a call to teach at St. Peter's in Huntington, Ind., and after 17 years of service here asked the congregation for his release. Teacher Glawe became principal and Gerken was called from St. Paul's Church in Westlake to teach the lower grades and to be organist.

Gerken, a native of Napoleon, Ohio, received his elementary education there, then attended the high school at Concordia Teachers College at River Forest. He graduated from the Concordia Teachers' college department with the degree of bachelor of science in education. Before going to Westlake, he had taught in Milwaukee, Wis.

The year 1947 marked the centennial of the Missouri Synod. As a part of the celebration, the Synod suggested to its congregations that they hold Vacation Bible Schools. St. John decided to hold a school from July 7 to 20. The summer program of religious education for children of parochial and public schools has proved so popular that it has become an annual affair.

Expansion discussions were continuing. In the fall of 1947, the congregation decided to tear down the old garages on the property and build an attached two-car garage on the west side of the parsonage. The west drive was also paved. On November 2, a special meeting of the congregation was held to approve a bid of $1402 for the redecorating of the church interior. The contractor was willing to give an unusually low bid if allowed to proceed with the work immediately.

At the quarterly meeting on January 26, 1948, Pastor Bischoff mentioned the question of the purchase of land by the Mayfield Mission of the Missouri Synod which had been holding services in Mayfield Heights. The voters indicated that they did not object to another congregation being established on the fringe of their area. A double house on Mayfield Road, which at first was used for services and as a parsonage, was purchased. The congregation took the name of Our Savior. They have since erected a church across the street from the parsonage.

On the recommendation of Teacher Gerken, a special meeting of the voters was held on June 27, 1948. The teacher in carrying out his duties as organist and directing the choir, had found the church organ, purchased second hand in 1916, to be in very poor condition. He had learned that the organ at St. Andrews Church in Cleveland was for sale and at the special meeting the congregation voted for its purchase. Later the vestry instead decided to set up a fund for the purchase of a new organ and a committee was appointed.

Also discussed that fall was the building of an exit on the southeast side of the church at a cost of $2300; no action was taken, however.

In January, 1949, the congregation began to discuss the purchase of a second teacher's house. At a special meeting on February 20, they voted to buy a house at 4406 Prasse Road. Like the teacherage bought two years before, it was located within walking distance of the church and on a street named for one of the early families of the congregation.

Grading and resurfacing the playground-parking lot was started in the spring of 1949. In the summer, the new drive was installed. Located east of the church, it was 18 feet wide and 75 feet long, leading back into the parking lot.

An era of St. John history ended abruptly on August 10, 1949. Pastor Bischoff died suddenly in his home of a heart attack. For more than a quarter of a century, he had guided the congregation of St. John and he had led them well.

Pastor and Mrs. W. O. Bischoff

Chapter Nine

Among the first acts of the congregation at the special meeting after Pastor Bischoff's funeral was the decision to pay a gratuity to Mrs. Bischoff until a new minister was appointed. She remained at the parsonage until the end of the year, then moved to a house in South Euclid so that she could be among old friends. During the past few years, she has continued to serve St. John as before. Her advice and help have been invaluable.

The congregation held a series of special meetings during the autumn of 1949 to consider the calling of a new pastor. A sign of the modern age was the decision to allow interested candidates to telephone long-distance-collect for further information. This was a change from the last time when St. John had sought a new pastor and the telephone, only recently installed in the parsonage, was still considered a luxury.

From the names submitted, the congregation decided to extend a call to the Rev. Stewart A. Burk, pastor of St. Paul's Church in Kingsville, Md. After consideration, he accepted. He is a native of the state in which he had been serving, having been born in Sweet Air, Md., on July 24, 1913. He attended high school and junior college at Concordia Collegiate Institute at Bronxville, N. Y., from 1927 to 1935, then took his theological training at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis from 1936 to 1939. He also served as vicar of two Baltimore churches, Immanuel Lutheran in 1937-39 and Our Savior Lutheran from 1939-40. In June 1940, he was ordained and installed at his first parish, the Kingsville church. In 1944, he accepted a call to the Martin Luther Chapel in Savannah, Ga., but in 1946, was called back to St. Paul's.

Pastor and Mrs. Stewart A. Burk

At the time of his ordination, the new pastor married Miss Ruth Marie Hagedorn. Vivacious and charming, she and the five Burk children have been welcome additions to the congregation.

Rev. Burk was installed at St. John on January 29, 1950. Rev. W. J. Luecke preached the sermon and other ministers assisting in the services were Rev. E. Beltz, Rev. R. Schroeder, Rev. F. Kemper, Rev. E. Bliss, Rev. A. Keck, Rev. C. Schuknecht, Rev. E. Rehmer, and Rev. A. Katt.

The problems of expansion faced Rev. Burk as he began to study his pastorate. The steady building of new homes in the community was resulting in a rapid increase in the number of new families in the church and of the children attending St. John School. At the first voters assembly at which Rev. Burk was present, it was decided to increase the number of regular meetings from four a year to bi-monthly.

The increased enrollment made the congregation decide in April to employ an additional school teacher. In August, Miss Muriel James was hired to teach the first and second grades. A decision to begin kindergarten classes was also approved and Miss Grace Hinz was hired on a part-time basis to teach the pre-school children.

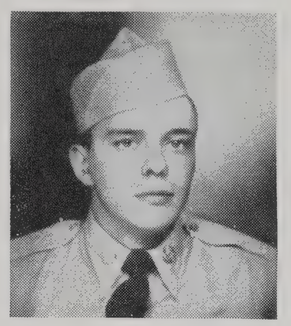
Shortly after Pastor Burk took up his new duties, the order was placed for the new organ. On January 14, 1951, a special meeting of the voters was held at which it was explained that the new organ would be too large to be installed in the church balcony. The voters decided to build a 13-by-13 foot room on the southeast side of the church to hold the organ.

Looking ahead in 1951, the congregation of St. John realized that their centennial year would soon be upon them. On May 28, they voted to establish a St. John Building Fund. They began soliciting contributions for a $300,000 fund for the expansion program. On July 30, three committees were appointed: a visiting committee to canvas the congregation and urge everyone to give more time to "working and playing in the church curriculum, in other words to promote love and unity in the church congregation", a speakers committee, and a publicity committee to plan for a centennial history.

The Korean conflict again found the young men of South Euclid entering their country's service. Among those, who volunteered or were drafted, were:

Richard C. Arndt, Harold W. Brueggemyer, Earl W. Prasse, Richard Schultz, Robert E. Glause, Alvin P. Kushing, Charles E. Batig, Alan W. Stevens, Richard H. Miller, Kenneth Gronert, Walter Stoetzer, Elmer Glause Jr., Chester Fibich, Melvin Prasse, Frank Jodszuweit Jr., Walter Miller.

In November, 1952, a member of the congregation was killed in battle for the first time since the death of Sgt. Prasse in the Civil War; Cpl. Chester Fibich gave his life in the struggle for Heartbreak Ridge. His body was brought back to the United States and buried with full military honors in St. John Cemetery in January, 1953.



Cpl. Chester Fibich

The congregation was also saddened by another tragedy which struck the family of the late pastor in December, 1951. Killed in an automobile accident near Bakersfield, Calif., when their car was forced off a mountain road were Dr. Karl Radzow, his wife, the former Gretchen Bischoff, and their young son. Only survivor was the Radzows' small daughter, named for her mother. After recovering from her injuries, little Gretchen was brought to South Euclid and lives with her grandmother.

Teacher Gerken announced at the first meeting in 1952 that the new organ would arrive on February 18. Cost was $11,000. At the same meeting, it was decide to open a savings account for the centennial building fund.

In March, the vestry voted to have Miss Hinz, who had been teaching kindergarten, act as part-time secretary to Pastor Burk, and also decided to hire Paul Elbrecht as summer vicar.

A student at the seminary in Springfield, he is a graduate of St. John School and the son of Fred Elbrecht, one of the congregation's most active senior members. In 1953, he was reappointed vicar and served during the centennial year.

The opening of the 100th year of St. John's existence was marred by the serious illness of Pastor Burk, who was stricken while returning to South Euclid from a vacation in Maryland. Upon action of the vestry, he was granted a three-month leave of absence. In the interim, Pastor Elmer Bliss and Pastor Theodore Meibohn served the church.

The congregation continued with plans for the centennial celebration, particularly the establishment of the 100 Club. To become eligible for membership, an adult member of the congregation had to give $100 to the centennial expansion fund or 25 hours of special service to the church. An organization gave 100 hours of service to be eligible for unit membership. Children could contribute 100 dimes.

Two new organizations joined the church family during the centennial year. The Ushers Club made its bow during the summer months. Composed of the young men of the church, its duty, as the name implies, is to assist at the church services. Another new organization begun in the fall is the Young Peoples Club, composed of unmarried members of the church past school age.

A project of the centennial year was the revising of the church constitution. Realizing that some changes would be advantageous and also that some errors had been made in the translation of the original from the German, the congregation appointed a committee to study the matter. They presented the finished draft to the voters assembly in the fall for revision and approval.

With expansion foremost in the minds of the congregation during its 100th year, the school was the biggest problem. The realization that at least 100 children would be attending the school in the fall of 1953 made the voters agree at their meeting on March 9 to employ an additional woman teacher. The decision meant that the school's fourth classroom would have to be used by her and that new quarters would have to be found for the kindergarten.

The school question became more serious when Teacher Gerken announced that he had decided to retire temporarily from teaching and return to his home town. And in April, Principal Glawe asked his release so that he might take a position as a writer of religious curricular material for the Missouri Synod Board of Education.

A call to teach the seventh and eighth grades at St. John and to act as principal was accepted by Merle Golnick, who had been teaching at Trinity Church in Warren, O., and was also taking post graduate work at Kent State University. A graduate of the Synod teachers college at River Forest, he had taught in Fairmount, Minn., where his parents reside, before going to Warren. With Miss Dorothy Buehner, he is acting as counselor for the young people of the congregation.

Miss Buehner, who is teaching the third and fourth grades, is a native of India. She was born there while her father was serving as a Lutheran missionary. During World War II, she came to the United States with her mother. She attended Concordia Teachers College at Seward, Nebr., and this is her first teaching position.

Also a graduate of the institute at Seward is Robert Zielske, who was called to teach the fifth and sixth grades, to act as organist, and to lead the choir. He taught at Lester Prarie, Nebr., for two years before coming to St. John.

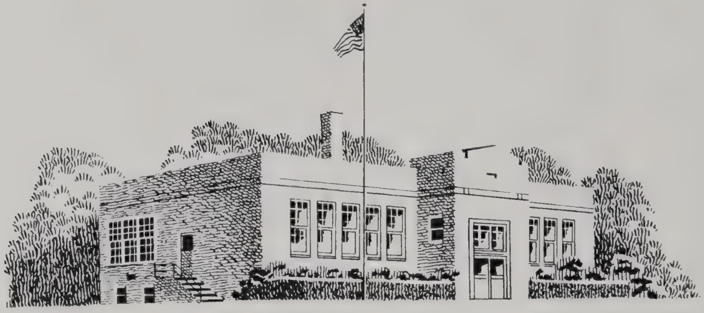
Another new teacher at St. John is Mrs. Georgia Wegman, who agreed to conduct the kindergarten classes following the resignation of Miss Hinz in August, 1953. Mrs. Wegmann, a resident of Lyndhurst, was graduated from Oberlin College and did graduate work at the University of Chicago. Prior to her marriage she taught in New York City.

Before Mrs. Wegman's appointment, the continuation of the kindergarten was the subject of much discussion at the voters meetings since both quarters and a teacher were lacking. After the members decided that a kindergarten was an essential part of the school, a section of the basement hall was remodeled into kindergarten quarters.

Construction of a new kindergarten room will be part of the proposed expansion program. Discussion of expansion plans began in earnest last winter when meetings were held at the homes of members and questionnaires sent out. Those returned showed that the majority of the members favored the remodeling of the present church. Further discussion strengthened this view, and at a special voters meeting on September 15, just prior to the week-long centennial celebration, Melvin Waldschmidt, chairman of the Central Centennial Committee, explained that the building committee preferred a renovating plan for church and school at an estimated cost of $150,000, to a plan for the construction of a new church only for $300,000. The remodeling plan includes construction of four new classrooms and sanitary facilities, the moving of the church to a new foundation with basement assembly rooms, the remodeling of the interior of the church and the placing of brick veneer on the outside, and relocating of the parsonage.

The plans for larger facilities and the spirit of Christian service shown by the congregation during the Centennial Year indicate a bright future for St. John. The families, who founded the Church, laid a firm foundation. Their descendents, and the many other Christians who have joined St. John and will do so as the community continues to grow, can be proud of these first one hundred years.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



"Our elementary school stands today, as in the past, to give our children an education for life that is fused with God's will for us here on earth, and in heaven. The school is evidence of our desire to gain and conserve souls.

"The benefits to our church have been manifold. Children, indoctrinated with God's pure word, have grown into a church that has a great and sound heritage to pass on to future generations. Children, rich in God's grace, have grown into eager witnesses for their Savior. Spiritually-minded children have become good stewards of God's gifts of time, money, ability, personality, mind, and body.

"By the grace of God, and with His help, our church will continue to support a dynamic Christian school that provides increasing power for the Church's growth in spiritual numerical, and stewardship strength."

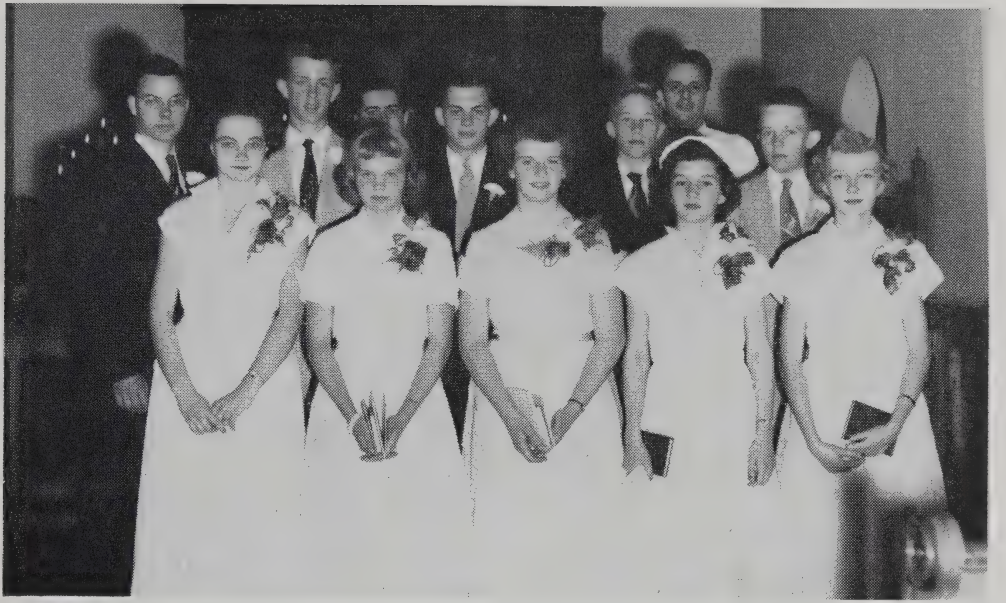
Paul Glawe

School Board

Although the activities of the parochial school occupy most of their time, the school board of St. John has control over all of the agencies in the church program of Christian education.

The school and the other educational forms have been a part of St. John almost since its inception, but the school board is of much shorter duration. The resolution to form the board was presented to the voters assembly by the vestry and adopted on January 7, 1923, shortly after Rev. Bischoff was installed as pastor and Mr. Wagner became teacher. The regulations of the board were adopted at a special meeting two weeks later and have stood the test of 30 changing years. With the exception of a few minor details, they remain unchanged.

To compose the board, the assembly elects three laymen. They, with the pastor, male teachers and Sunday school superintendent who are members ex officio, direct the educational program, guided by their own regulations and the church constitution and also led by directives from the voters assembly.



The Centennial Confirmation Class, left to right: Clyde Hernandez, Joyce Wingeleth, Kenneth Kasten, Nancy Rentschler, Pastor Beltz, Jay Schlorer, Nancy Glause, Albert Grosse, Pastor Burk, Rosalie Hazzard, Thomas Giebner, Joan Gieger.

Mr. Paul Glawe presenting the 1953 graduates at the school graduation banquet.

1953 FIRST AND SECOND GRADES

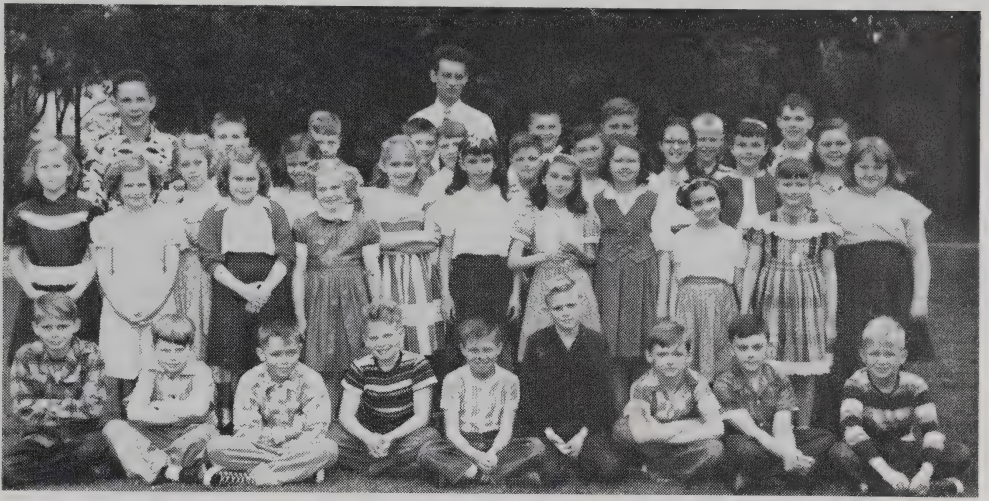
Teacher, Miss Muriel James

Reading left to right, standing: Miss James, Kenneth Eisermann, Richard Christopherson, Frederick Wolf, Margaret Rindfleisch, Carolyn Nelson, George Burk, Thomas Gruber, Rolf Miller, John Waldschmidt, Paul Gerken, Clifton Reeves, Clarice Johnson, Wade Theuerkauf, Marie Gerken, Linda Melichar, Lorelle Baumgart, Donald Graber; Front Row: Clark Beattie, Thomas Somerville, Kenneth Pipes, Douglas Primeau, Ronald Price, Richard Senior, Matthew Glawe, William Eble.

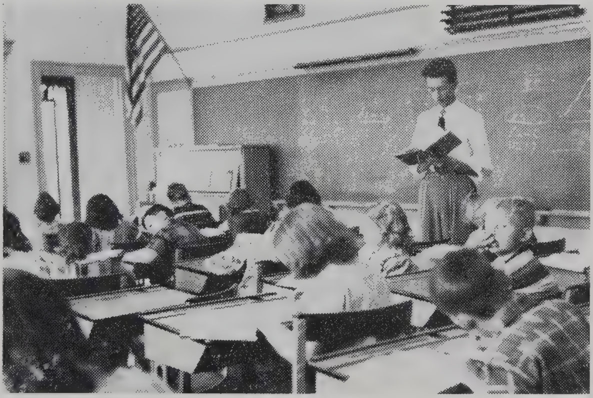
First and second grade classroom in session, showing the second grade doing oral reading. A child is made to understand in St. John School that he learns the art of reading that he may also be able to comply with Christ's command to "search the scriptures."

1953 THIRD, FOURTH AND SIXTH GRADES

Teacher, Mr. August Gerken



Standing: left to right, Lois Pearson, Richard Hernandez, Faith Draegert, Joan Vernick, Dale Wingeleth, Nancy Kapp, Arlene Baumgart, Melvin Waldschmidt, Karen Ott, Ruth Marie Burk, Walter Elbrecht, Mary Clum, Teacher Gerken, Sheila Hazzard, Walter Zentz, Phillip Johnson, Arlene Cecil, David Lembke, Paul Burk, Sharon Melichar, Harriet Wolf, Ned Pearson, Paula Glawe, Carolyn Grosser, Dale Graber, Kathryn Gable, Joan Boles, Ruth Timm; Seated: David Burk, Nils Lindstrom, Richard Batig, Robert Rentschler, Kenny Grosse, Ralph Nelson, Donald Lowe, George Frandsen, David Anderson.



Mr. August Gerken teaching grades three, four and six. The primary purpose of St. John School is to teach the child the philosophy of life which is centered in faith in Christ Jesus; however, it also emphasizes the ideals of good American citizenship.

1953 FIFTH, SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

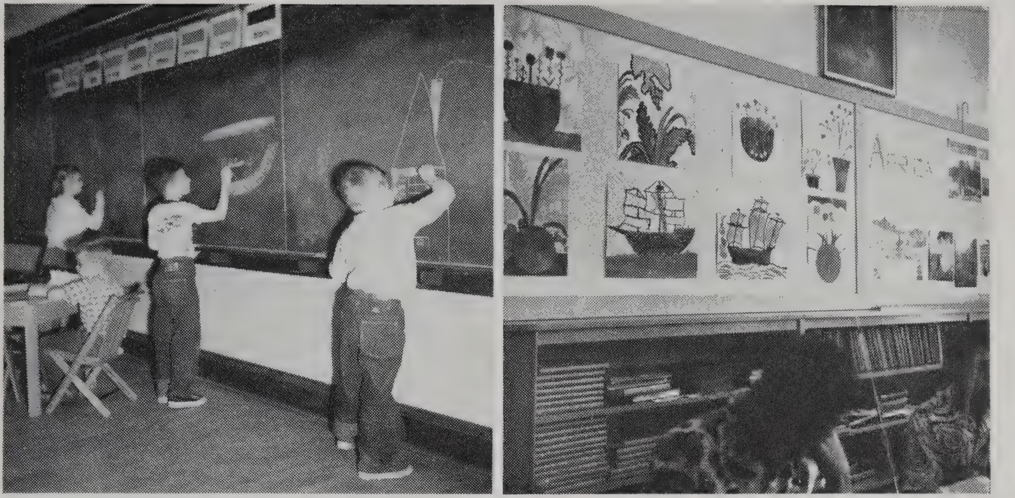
Teacher, Mr. Paul Glawe

Grades five, seven and eight. Teacher, Mr. Paul Glawe. Reading from left to right, Standing: Gail Reeves, Kathleen Grisard, Nancy Rentachler, Shirley Leist, Alan Clum, Gail Rentschler, Virginia Hoekman, Ingrin Lindstrom, Richard Timm, Susan Zentz, Rebecca Glawe, Ernest Grosser, Nancy Glause, Norman Libby, James Gaskell, Clyde Hernandez, John Krienheder, Joyce Wingeleth, Kenneth Kasten, Barbara Bayer, Alcyone Scott, Teacher Glawe, Rosalie Hazzard, Albert Grosse, Jay Schlorer.

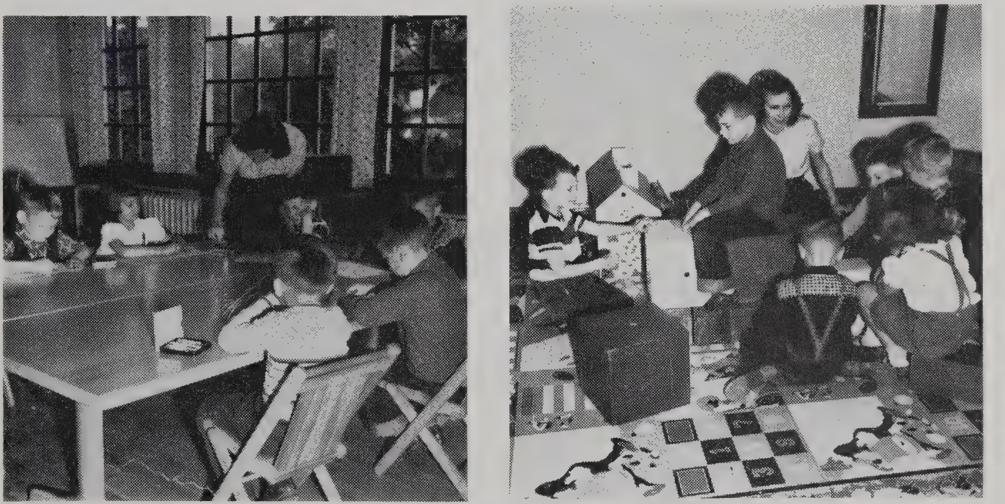
Our fifth, seventh and eighth grade classroom; though the subject matter taught here is still basically founded on the age-old Gospel, nevertheless, this classroom is an example of the up-to-date and modern trend in our present day education.

Mr. Paul G. Glawe teacher and principal of St. John School from 1940-1953.

During Mr. Glawe's 13 years of service at St. John, our school grew and under his direction was kept abreast of every modern method in elementary school education.



It is an ever-present purpose of the teachers of St. John School to develop the God given talents of the children so that in all of the sciences, the child might recognize and appreciate the service he should, as a Christian, render to God and his fellow-man. The picture on the left above is an example of first and second grade children learning self-expression; the picture on the right shows completed art work done by children from grades three, four and six. The development of the school's art program has been largely due to the talents and efforts of Miss Muriel James.



Above are pictures of St. John Kindergarten in session. The Kindergarten program acquaints the child with school life; this important transition from home to school is made easier through the media of this program. Shown working with the children, is Miss Grace Hinz, who as the first instructor of the Kindergarten, did much toward the organization and development of the program.

School Board in session. Left to right, Richard Zielske, Secretary; Carl Grisard, Chairman; Merle Golnick, ex-officio, Henry Berghaus, Superintendent of Sunday School and ex-officio member, Norman Libby, Pastor Burk, ex-officio member, Elmer Eisermann. Other ex-officio members not in picture are Dorothy Buehner, Muriel James and Georgia Wegman.

An additional step forward by the congregation in our Centennial year, was the decision to add a fifth teacher to the school faculty. The resignation of our two men teachers and the Kindergarten teacher, made it necessary for St. John to call four teachers. Thus, in our Centennial year, as in the past, God gave evidence of His guidance and grace by providing St. John with a full staff of teachers for our Christian day school. The above picture was taken at a reception for the new teachers. Reading left to right: Mr. Merle Golnick, Principal and teacher of grades seven and eight; Mr. Richard Zielske, teacher of grades three and four; Miss Dorothy Buehner, teacher of grades five and six, and Mrs. Martin Wegman, Kindergarten instructor.

Our Parent Teacher's Conference

Members of St. John Parent-Teacher-Conference present at Mission Festival, Sunday, August 9, 1953, reading from left to right. Standing, back row: Robert Reeves, Reinhardt Rindfleisch, Melvin Waldschmidt, Joseph Melichar, Walter Primeau, Carl Grisard, Wilbert Vernick, Roy Cecil, William Baumgart, Norman Libby, George Anderson; Standing, middle row: Margaret Rindfleisch, Dorothy Buehner, Frances Gruber, Clara Kasten, Bea Reeves, Evelyn Lindstrom, Norinne Vernick, Ruth Libby, Bertha Gable, Ruth Pipes; Seated, Elizabeth Somerville, Helen Cecil, Adeline Eble, Virginia Melichar, Jean Primeau, Helen Graber, Lucia Grisard, Ethel Waldschmidt, Frieda Bayer, Arlene Baumgart, Ruth Burk, Leona Anderson.

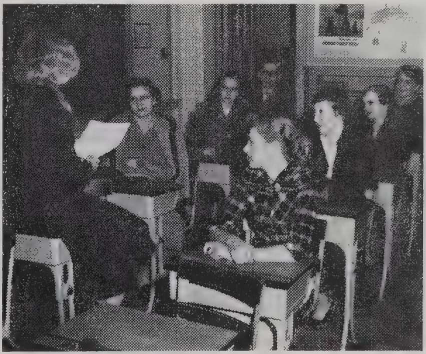
- OFFICERS -

Joseph Melichar, President	Ethel Waldschmidt, Secretary
Ruth Pipes, Vice-President	Leona Anderson, Treasurer

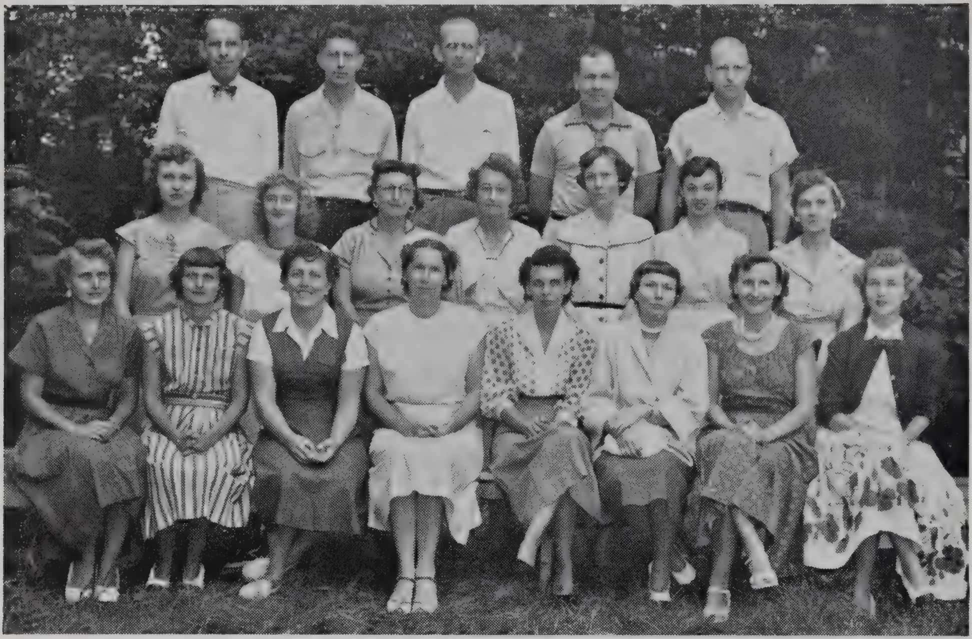
Organized in the fall of 1948, the Parent Teacher Conference of St. John School represented the realization of a long-standing dream for Teacher Paul Glawe. For the charter meeting, 27 attended to elect Mrs. L. E. Lindstrom the first president and to set up a program designed to bring parents, teachers, and friends of the school into a closer relationship.

To the right is a typical scene of the P. T. C. where the parents and teachers meet in individual groups to discuss specific child-parent-teacher problems.

Today, 42 of the school's 68 families are members of the P.T.C. Meetings are held monthly excluding December.



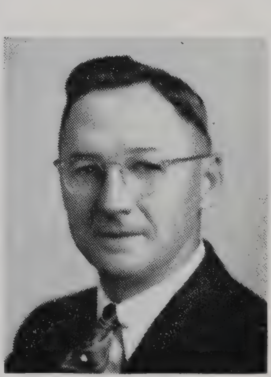
Our Sunday School



Members of St. John Sunday School Staff, Mission Festival Sunday, August 9, 1953, reading from left to right. Standing, back row: Walter Elbrecht, Carl Graber, Henry Berghaus, Melvin Waldschmidt, Richard Bischoff; Middle row: Jane Schmidt, Mary Anderson, Elizabeth Anderson, Bertha Berghaus, Helen Graber, Louise Bischoff, Louise Schmidt; Seated: Dorothy Richter, Jean Primeau, Alberta Barnes, Evelyn Lindstrom, Ida Huelsman, Bertha Gable, Mildred Litschert, Marge Gold.

ST. JOHN SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Edward Bewie
Helped organize
Sunday School



Edward Kerruish
1907 - 1917

Gust Herr
1917 - 1919

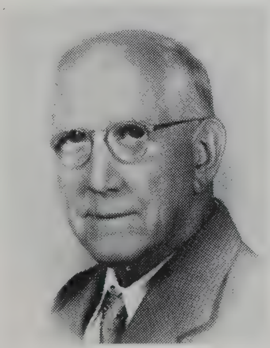
ROSTERS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS BY DEPARTMENTS

Henry Berghaus, Supt.
Marie Schwentker, Sec.
Marilyn Elbrecht, Secretary
Carl Graber, Treasurer
Melvin Waldschmidt, Visual Aid Director
Grace Hinz, Beginner Department
Wilma Landenberger, Beginner Department
Mary Anderson, Beginner Department
Nancy Rentschler, Beginner Department
Betty Anderson, Beginner Department
Mildred Litchert, Beginner Department
Evelyn Lindstrom, Primary Department
Louise Schmidt, Primary Department
Bertha Berghaus Junior Department
Helen Graber, Junior Department
Ida Huelsman Junior Department
Elizabeth Somerville Junior Department
Margaret Gold, Junior Department
Dorothy Buehner, Intermediate Department
Colleen Hazzard, Intermediate Department
Muriel James, Intermediate Department
Alberta Barnes, Intermediate Department
Herbert Hoffmeyer, Intermediate Department
Richard Bischoff, Senior Department
Alma Wagner, Senior Department
Walter Elbrecht, Junior Bible Class
Myrtle Guth, Birthday Secretary
Phyllis Schultz, Receptionist

Next to the day school, the Sunday school is the chief means of Christian education at St. John. Although many of the children of the congregation are enrolled in both, there are others who are learning to know Christ only through the Sabbath instruction periods.

The Sunday School in its present form was established during the pastorate of Rev. H. M. Zorn, succeeding the "Christianlehre" (instruction in German) which was as old as the church itself. Teacher Edward Bewie was the last to conduct classes under the old form. Modern Sunday school superintendents have included Edward P. Kerruish, Gust Herr, Louis Lamp, and William Keske. (The latter completed over a quarter century of service in this post). Present superintendent in Henry Berghaus.

The Sunday school consists of classes for children from kindergarten to teen-age. Present enrollment of the school, adult Bible class and cradle roll is 335. Instructors are a staff of 31 men and women of the congregation. In addition, four others handle the clerical work. Bi-monthly staff meetings are held by the teachers for the preparation of lessons, for training courses, and for business.


Louis Lamp
1919 - 1920

William Keske
1920 - 1944

Henry Berghaus
1944 -

The Main Department of Sunday School, pictured above, meets in the School basement. The classes gathered around their teachers are led in their devotion by Mr. Henry Berghaus, Superintendent. Over the years, our Sunday School has experienced a steady growth in enrollment; its participation in the Centennial program was the effort to enroll 100 new members.

The Primary grade children meet together in one of the classrooms for their opening devotion, before separating into their individual classes for lesson study. One of the things toward which this group looks forward is the Bible Story told through the use of the Flannelgraph. This type of Visual Aid, plus a fine library of film strips and recordings, have been used in our Sunday School for a number of years. This is a well-organized Visual Aid phase of our Sunday School program, under the able leadership of Mr. Melvin Waldschmidt.

The Nursery Class, which is made up of the pre-school children, meet in their own classroom. Graded Sunday School lessons used at St. John begins with the Nursery group. These children too, although they are very young, are nevertheless able to grasp the truths of the Father's Love and the Savior's Salvation. This group to a great extent has already been introduced to the program of Christian education, through the means of the Cradle Roll.

The continued study of God's Word is essential to the older as well as the young Christian. St. John Adult Bible Class meets in the church during the regular Sunday School hour. The only text book which is used in the Adult Bible Class is the Word of God, the Bible. With the organization of the Bible Class four years ago, St. John now has a positive program of Christian education for the complete span of its members' lives.

Our Vacation Bible School

The Daily Vacation Bible School is another facet of the program of Christian education of St. John Church. Inaugurated in the year 1947, under the pastorate of Rev. Bischoff and the direction of Mr. Glawe, it has from its very inception, met with success. Sixty or more children attended the first year, and as the school has become more widely known, the enrollment has constantly grown until in 1953, the total enrollment was 193, including 19 individuals serving on the staff.

The school runs for two weeks with daily sessions from 9:00 to 12:00. Devotional services, Bible stories in word, slides, movies, flannelgraph, recreation, singing and handicraft, are included in the curriculum of the daily sessions. Approximately $200 is spent each year as expenses for the D.V.B.S. Although the church underwrites the expenses of the project, the majority of monies expended are returned to the church treasury through daily offerings and personal contributions of appreciative parents.

Many children, ranging in age from 4 to 14, who attend the school, are not members of the church. With added facilities, larger and more effective vacation Bible schools are anticipated in the future.

Good physical recreation is included in the Vacation Bible School program, not only to provide relaxation for the teachers and pupils, but also to train the children in good sportsmanship.

Phyllis Schultz finds time in the Bible School program to become better acquainted with some members of her class in an informal setting. An excellent relationship develops in just two short weeks between the child and teacher.

To help the child remember the theme of a Bible story, some type of hand work is provided. A great deal of personal interest and initiative is developed in the child by these projects.

Bertha Gable is shown with a classroom of enthusiastic Vacation Bible School children. The sincere interest of the teacher in her presentation of the Bible story, is reflected in the attitude of the children.

Our Cradle Roll

Lucille Elbrecht

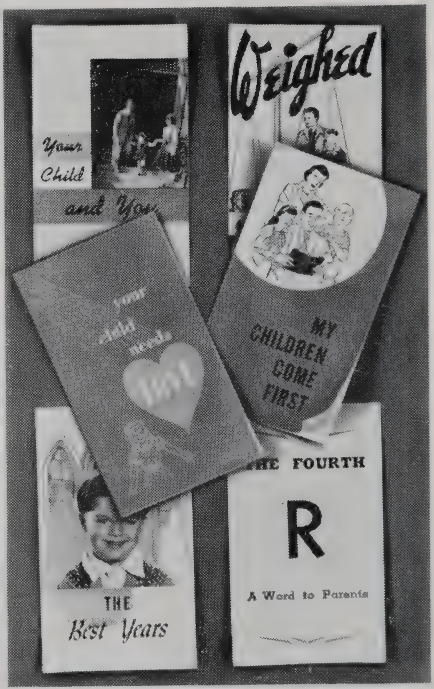
The St. John Cradle Roll is a living memorial to Mrs. Elmer T. Elbrecht, who was largely instrumental in starting the program in 1948 and who operated it with the aid of helpers until her death last year. Mrs. Elbrecht, the former Lucille Prasse, was a life-long member of St. John and was active in most of the church groups. She conceived the plan for this centennial history. The Cradle Roll was her first love and today is a tribute to her careful organization. It is a part of St. John Sunday School and brings the love of Jesus and His church to the young child through his parents before he is of Sunday School age.

The group, which now totals nine workers, goes into action upon hearing of the birth of a baby. Congratulations and a hand-made bib are sent. Later, the child receives an enrollment certificate. The "Parent Program", a recent inovation which consists of letters and pamphlets sent the parents, begins, and a book, "Growing Up With Jesus", is also sent.

When the child is 2, two leaflets a month are mailed to it, and from age 3 to 4, four leaflets are sent each month. These include familiar Bible stories and simple memory verses and prayers. Parents are encouraged to tell the stories to the children in their own words.

When the child reaches age 4, he receives a promotion certificate and if he is not already enrolled in the Sunday School, his parents are contacted.

Members of the Cradle Roll also make regular visits to the homes of the young members.



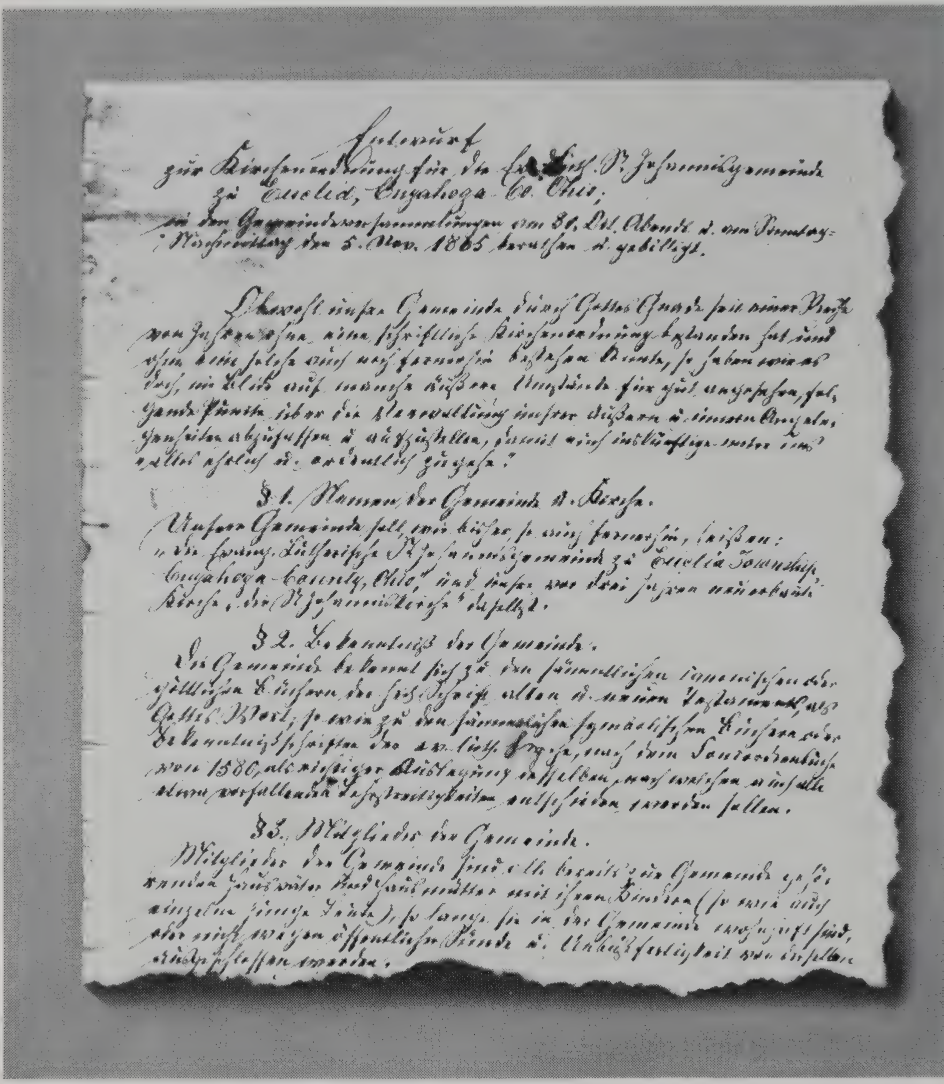
Shown above are some of the typical pamphlets used by the Cradle Roll workers in their home contact work.

Cradle Roll workers, reading left to right: Gertrude Glause, Bertha Gable, Ruth Boyle and Myrtle Guth.

This group of consecrated workers in the Cradle Roll program meets regularly to review and outline the various activities involved.

Shown here left to right are Mrs. Glause and Mrs. Guth, making a typical house call. The Cradle Roll program is based upon the personal contact of worker and parent.

CHRISTIAN ADMINISTRATION



Entwurf
zur Kirchenordnung für die ev.-luth. St. Johannisgemeinde
zu Euclid, Cuyahoga Co. Ohio;
in den Gemeindeversammlungen vom 31. Oct. Abends u. am Sonntag-Nachmittag den 5. Nov. 1865 berathen u. gebilligt.

Obwohl unsere Gemeinde durch Gottes Gnade seit einer Reihe von Jahrzehnten ohne schriftliche Kirchenordnung bestanden hat und ohne eine solche auch noch fernerhin bestehen könnte, so haben wir es doch, im Blick auf manche äußere Umstände für gut angesehen, gewisse Punkte über die Verwaltung unserer äußern u. innern Angelegenheiten abzufassen u. aufzustellen, damit auch inskünftige unter uns alles ehrlich u. ordentlich zugehe.

§ 1. Namen der Gemeinde u. Kirche.

Unsere Gemeinde soll, wie bisher, so auch fernerhin, heißen: „die Evang. Lutherische St. Johannisgemeinde zu Euclid Township, Cuyahoga-County, Ohio," und unsere vor drei Jahren neuerbaute Kirche „die St. Johanniskirche" desgleichen.

§ 2. Bekenntniß der Gemeinde.

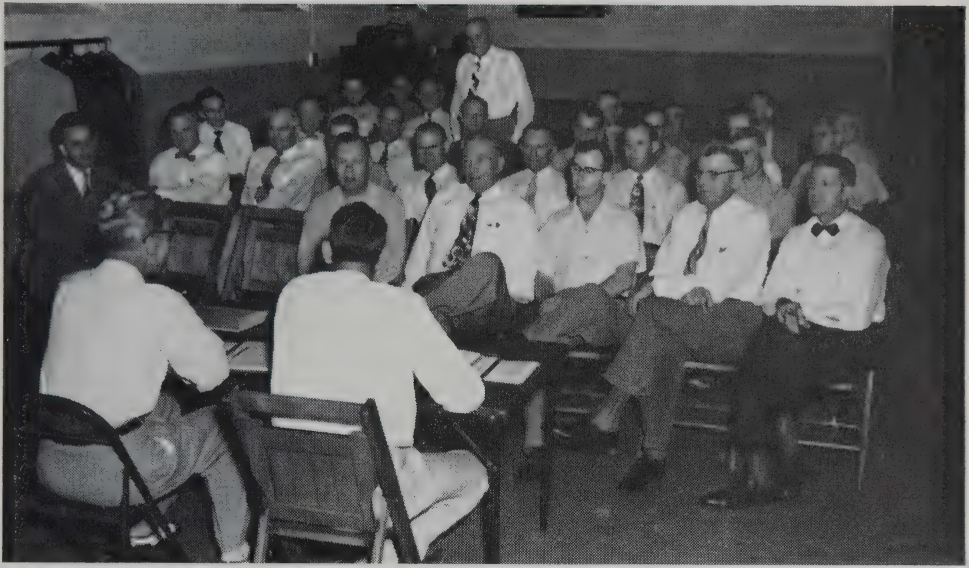
Die Gemeinde bekennt sich zu den sämmtlichen kanonischen oder göttlichen Büchern der heil. Schrift alten u. neuen Testaments, als Gottes Wort, so wie zu den sämmtlichen symbolischen Büchern oder Bekenntnißschriften der ev.-luth. Kirche, nach dem Concordienbuch von 1580, als richtiger Auslegung derselben, nach welchen auch alle etwa vorfallende Lehrstreitigkeiten entschieden werden sollen.

§ 3. Mitglieder der Gemeinde.

Mitglieder der Gemeinde sind alle bereits zur Gemeinde gehörenden Hausväter und Hausmütter mit ihren Kindern (so wie auch einzelne junge Leute), so lange sie in der Gemeinde wohnhaft sind, oder nicht wegen öffentlicher Sünde u. Unbußfertigkeit von derselben ausgeschlossen werden.

Reproduced above is a section of the original Constitution written in German script. The constitution was discussed at a voters meeting in the fall of 1865. Pastor Husmann assisted the congregation in drafting the Constitution. It was read to the congregation and approved on Pentecost Day 1866.

Our Voters Assembly

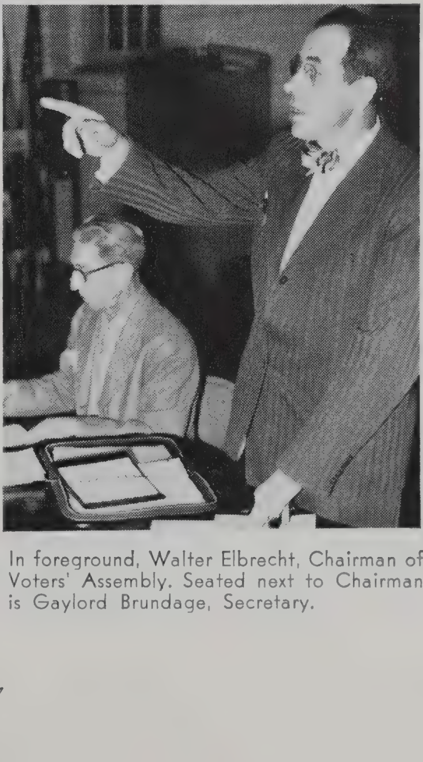


A voters assembly in session. Mr. Henry Eckert rises to discuss an issue that is before the assembly.

The voters assembly is the official body of the church which makes decisions and carries out resolutions of the congregation.

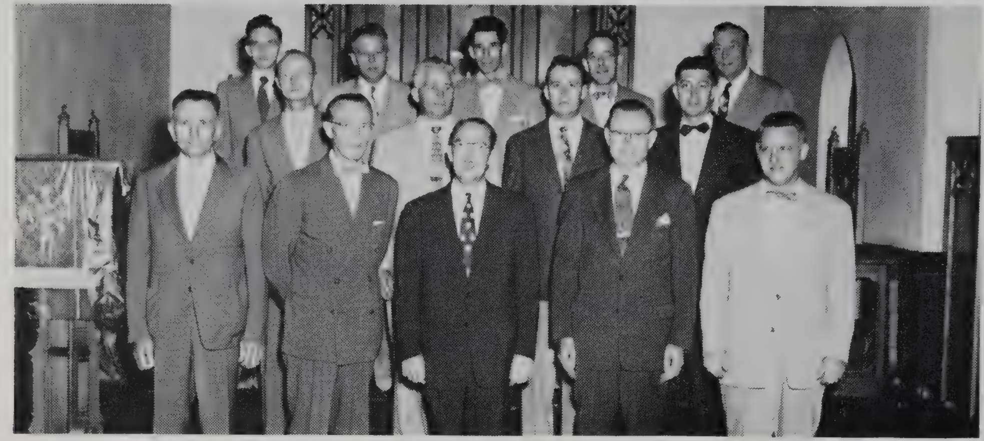
Membership in the assembly is open to all who are over the age of 21 and are male members in good standing in the congregation. To legally become voting members, they must sign the constitution and declare their intentions to vote at the regularly called meetings of the congregation every other month.

The voters assembly has set up a number of committees and boards to carry out its varied program more effectively. Most important are the vestry and the school board; the vestry is also represented by elected or appointed delegates at the District Synod Conventions and at various associations and institutions which carry on the wide variety of church work including the Institutional Ministry, Children Aid Society, Lutheran High School and Lutheran Hospital.



In foreground, Walter Elbrecht, Chairman of Voters' Assembly. Seated next to Chairman is Gaylord Brundage, Secretary.

Our Vestry



Members of the Vestry who served during the Centennial Year, 1953. Reading from left to right, back row: William Gruber, Wilbert Vernick, Erwin Elbrecht, Walter Elbrecht, Carl Faust; Middle row: Albert Holsing, Edward Abe, Howard Huelsman, Carl Graber; Front row: Carl Giesler, Gary Gold, William Eble, Arnold Kasten, Arthur Bluck.

Vestry Chairman, Gary Gold

The vestry is shown here counting and recording the offerings. This is one of the many and varied responsibilities of this group.

Our Cemetery Association

Although the cemetery of St. John has been a part of the church since its founding, it has been operated as a separate unit for the past 36 years under the laws of the State of Ohio. Its membership is the same as that of the church voters assembly, but separate officers and a separate board are elected, and the meetings are held at different times.

The board is responsible for the excellent physical appearance of the cemetery and the superintendent of the cemetery is in charge of its operation as related to the lot owners.

Shown at right are members of the Cemetery Association. Top photo, left to right, Carl Smith, William Miller, Herbert Batig. Lower photo, left to right, Leslie Cannon, Arthur Rindfleisch.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Our Ladies Aid Society

Members of St. John Ladies Aid, Mission Festival Sunday, August 9, 1953, reading from left to right. Back row: Pauline Niemeier, Edith Herr, Louise Schmidt, Myrtle Guth, Meta Maehler, Greta Hoffmeyer, Loretta Huelsman, Marie Eggleston, Dorothy Miller. Middle row: Ethel Holsing, Caroline Hauschild, Minnie Vernick, Esther Gilbert, Julia Eckert, Martha Brueggemyer, Mathilda Faust, Gertrude Giesler, Estella Hoffmeyer, Emma Brueggemyer, Clara Brueggemyer. Front row: Clara Bischoff, Pauline Prasse, Anna Hitchcock, Ella Toye, Augusta Jones, Ida Emshoff, Lydia Gesell, Elizabeth Libby, Ottilia Keske, Minnie Norman, Antoinette Schneider. Other members not present when picture was taken are: Clara Eickhoff, Emma Leppelmeier (Mrs. George), Ruth Burk, Dora Faust, Mary Finkemeier, Mary Haserodt, Lucy Hausrath, Emma Leppelmeier (Mrs. Fred), Lillian Nelson, Thelma Norsell, Emma Prasse, Ruth Simmons, Louise Urban, Helen Wagner, Beatrice Rentschler, Mary Pahner, Pauline Potting, Louise Opper, Elizabeth Wood, Regina Toncre, Lillian Kath, Wilhemina Sapatka.

OFFICERS

Meta Maehler, President
Estella Hoffmeyer, Second Vice-President
Esther Gilbert, First Vice-President
Clara Eickhoff, Secretary
Emma Leppelmeier (Mrs. George), Treasurer

Oldest of the social organizations of St. John Church, the Ladies Aid has rolled up a highly creditable list of achievements in the 40 years since its founding.

It was organized by a group of 43 women in October, 1913. Seven of the original members are still active: Mrs. Anna Hitchcock, Mrs. Edith Herr, Mrs. Emma Prasse, Mrs. Augusta Johns, Mrs. Pauline Prasse, Mrs. Ida Emshoff and Mrs. Carl Rolf.

First project the Aid undertook was the remodeling of the parsonage barn into a social hall. Later accomplishments have included the decorating of the church and donating of an altar and pulpit in 1932, the contribution of $2000 toward the church treasury in 1935 and $100 toward the school debt in 1936, the installation of new lighting fixtures in 1939, and lesser items including the installation of the first telephone at the parsonage.

Most famous of the Aid activities are the sauerkraut suppers which have been held annually since before World War 1 on the Saturday before the November election.

Working on the Centennial Tablecloth, being fashioned in honor of the 100th Anniversary of St. John, are these members of the Ladies Aid. Left to right, seated: Pauline Niemeier, Edith Herr, Estella Hoffmeyer, Clara Eickhoff. Standing: Dorothy Miller, Julia Eckert.

A familiar scene—a group of ladies from the Aid working in the kitchen of the School basement. Left to right: Clara Bischoff, Dorothy Miller, Estella Hoffmeyer, Edith Herr, Pauline Niemeier, Meta Maehler.

Our Altar Guild

Members of St. John Altar Guild, Mission Festival Sunday, August 9, 1953, reading from left to right. Back row: Mona Eckert, Norma Abe, Beatrice Reeves, Margaret Gold, Adeline Eble, Viola Lembke, Estelle Brundage, Mary Moldwin, Ruth Libby, Arlene Baumgart. Middle row: Clara Dill, Elizabeth Somerville, Ethel Waldschmidt, Ida Huelsman, Jean Primeau, Myrtle Guth, Mildren Litschert, Louise Schmidt, Clara Bischoff. Front row: Freida Bayer, Ruth Burk, Florence Koklauner, Lillian Miller, Thekla Elbrecht, Dorothy Richter, Clara Kasten, Fern Batig, Lucille Honsbehn, Helen Graber, Ruth Pipes. Other members not present when picture was taken are: Dorothy Bliss, Ruth Boyle, Marge Dawson, Jeanette Eisermann, Dorothy Elbrecht, Bertha Gable, Gertrude Glause, Lillian Glawe, Grace Hinz, Lydia Hirt, Ruth Jones, Donalene Kulman, Deloris Miller, Marguerite Ott, June Price, Adeline Runkle, Florence Schieman, Toni Schoch, Phyllis Schultz, Peggy Sheridan, Helen Theuerkauf, Marian Tresnicka, Alma Wagner.

OFFICERS

Thekla Elbrecht, President
Muriel James, Vice President
Lillian Miller, Secretary
Dorothy Richter, Treasurer

For the last 12 years, the Altar Guild of St. John has supplied appointments for the altar and assisted the pastor in preparing for services.

The organization was founded in September, 1941, with Mrs. Bischoff as the first president and the members lost no time in living up to their name, purchasing a new altar cloth. To raise money, they sewed luncheon cloths and sold them to the congregation. In recent years, most of their funds have come from their annual strawberry festivals.

Later purchases have included additional altar cloths, two credence tables, two channel chairs, fair linens, chalice veils, baptismal linens, and four new robes, a black one and a white one for Pastor Burk, a white one for any visiting pastor, and one for Pastor Bliss, who has served the church, when the pulpit was vacant. The guild supplies candles for the candelabra and contributed $450 toward the purchase of a new organ screen.

The guild also arranges the flowers which are supplied without charge by Bemis Florists, vests the altar for services, and takes care of the linens. Each member serves on one of five committees—sacristy, flowers, ways and means, program or membership—and four women are on duty each month, two at each service.

One of the most recent programs of the Guild is the visiting of sick and invalid members, new and prospective members. Two members serve on the hostess committee at each service at church, welcoming worshippers and making acquaintance especially with visitors. The Guild has also sponsored the use of a rededication card project at our services.

A Centennial project of the Altar Guild was this beautiful Centennial Plate. Over seventeen dozens of these plates were sold during the week of the celebration.

One of the duties of the Altar Guild is the setting up of Communion and the care of the Communion Ware. Elizabeth Somerville is handing the silver Chalice to Jeanette Eisermann who will carefully place it into its flannel container, for protection and safekeeping.

The Altar Guild uses a rotating system, whereby four ladies are on Altar duty once a year for a period of one month. In this way all its members have a chance to help prepare a pleasing and well-ordered worship. Beatrice Reeves and Margaret Gold are seen dressing the altar.

Our Men's Club

Members of St. John Men's Club, Mission Festival Sunday, August 9, 1953, reading from left to right. Back row: Rev. Stewart Burk, Elmer Eisermann, Arnold Kasten, Albert Richter, William Gruber, Wilbert Vernick, Vicar Paul Elbrecht. Middle row: Robert Reeves, Melvin Waldschmidt, Gottlob Kemmerle, Edwin Niemeier, William Eble, Gary Gold, Carl Faust, Carl Graber, William Miller. Front row: William Hausrath, Henry Eckert, Charles Guth, Norman Vernick, Albert Holsing, Gust Herr, James Malta, Edward Abe. Other members not present when picture was taken are: Arthur Schultz, Richard Bliss, Arthur Bluck, Dwight Crawford, Erwin Elbrecht, Richard Gable, Paul Giebner, Paul Glawe, Robert Herr, Herbert Hoffmeyer, John Kirsch, George Leppelmeier, George Pipes, Robert Rentschler, Glenn Schneider, William Schwentker, Otto Toncre, David Larson.

OFFICERS

Norman Vernick, President	Richard Bliss, Secretary
Arthur Schultz, Vice-President	Albert Richter, Treasury

The St. John Lutheran Men's Club was founded in 1948, and from a few members who began the group, membership has grown to 42.

The club meets the second Wednesday of each month, except in July and August. All communicant members of the Missouri Synod who have reached the age of 18 are eligible to join.

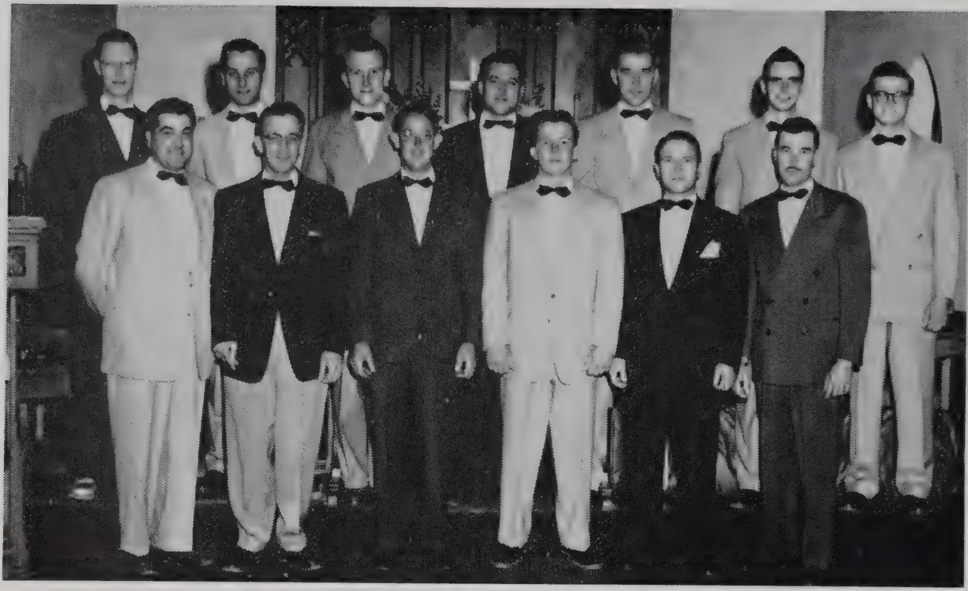
In addition to Christian fellowship, the club has been active in several projects to increase church facilities, including the purchase of tables for the church basement, supplying the school with playground equipment, maintenance of the picnic grounds, installation of an automatic hot water heater in the school basement, and participation in the church's annual sauerkraut supper.

The Men's Club frequently engages in activities which promote good fellowship The above picture was taken at one of the softball games played at Lyndhurst. Inset at left; Pastor Burk at bat; at right, Gary Gold awaits his turn at bat as umpire dusts the plate.

The Men's Club is sports minded as well as spiritually minded. The club sponsors a volleyball team in the winter Hillcrest Y. M. C. A. Volleyball League, and last summer organized a softball team for the Y's new Softball League.

The Men's Club is a member of Synod's Lutheran Layman's League, the organization of the laymen in the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. This organization has had a fine record of Christian service to its credit. Some of its outstanding projects include sponsoring of the International Lutheran Hour, the outstanding religious radio program in the world; they have produced a number of excellent full-length motion picture films that have a Christian lesson or principle to relate. The L.L.L. also sponsors scholarships for our Lutheran University, Valparaiso; it also has a hospital at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Through their contact-key man, the Men's Club has some forty individual memberships in the International Lutheran Layman's League organization. Mr. Herbert Hoffmeyer has served as our Layman's League representative since our club became an affiliated member.

Our Usher's Club



Members of St. John Ushers Club, reading from left to right. Back row: Norman Huelsman, Albert Richter, Robert Giesler, Richard Bliss, Norman Vernick, Donald Berghaus, Ralph Guth. Front row: Walter Primeau, Elmer Fibich, Carl Smith, Arnold Kasten, Jr., James Malta, Edward Huelsman. Other members not present when picture was taken are: Wilfred Grosse, Peter Seletsky, Paul Giesler, Kenneth Gronert, Robert Herr, Warren Jagusch, Ray Haserodt, Martin Wegman, Richard Bischoff, Robert Eckert, Howard Huelsman, Erwin Elbrecht.

OFFICERS

Albert Richter, President
Norman Huelsman, Secretary
Walter Primeau, Vice-President; Usher-In-Charge

Newest of the organizations of St. John Lutheran Church is the Ushers Club, which had its beginning during this centennial year. Discussion began last spring with the thought that the new group would effect a more efficient ushering program and provide an avenue of church service for the younger men of the congregation.

Meetings were held throughout the summer and on Aug. 30 the members of the club were installed at the 10:45 a.m. service, beginning their official service a week later.

Our Choir

Members of St. John Choir, Mission Festival Sunday, August 9, 1953, reading from left to right. Standing: Carl Graber, George Lembke, James Malta, Carl Grisard, Elmer Fibich, Arnold Kasten, Kenneth Gronert, Theodore Kasten. Seated: Ruth Burk, Ethel Waldschmidt, Lucille Huelsman, Marion Malta, Evelyn Lindstrom, Meta Melcher, Thekla Elbrecht, Mary Anderson. Other members, not present when picture was taken are: Betty Anderson, Albert Gross, Muriel James, Virginia Schroeder, Marie Schwentker, Alma Wagner.

OFFICERS

Carl Grisard, President
Evelyn Lindstrom, Secretary
Meta Melcher, Treasurer

St. John has had numerous singing groups since its founding, many of them composed of school children; the first organized choir was begun by Teacher Hoffmeyer in 1887.

As the members married, the choir gradually dissolved, but when Teacher Bewie came to St. John in 1904, he organized a new choir. During the last part of his stay here, it was led by Miss Anita Eckstein.

Teacher Wagner, who followed Bewie as principal and organist, led one of the most successful choirs in the history of the church. The group was extremely active in outside affairs, giving annual plays and holding numerous outings and parties.

Later Mr. Starke led the choir. Teacher Schall, who succeeded Wagner, then organized a young peoples choir, and during the last year of his stay here, 1946, the present group was organized. Mr. August Gerkin was their leader until last June. Present membership is 21.

Our Walther League

Members of St. John Walther League, Mission Festival Sunday, August 9, 1953, reading from left to right. Standing: Clyde Hernandez, Arnold Kasten, Ralph Guth, Donald Berghaus, Kenneth Kasten, Thomas Giebner, Walter Kemmerle. Seated: Paul Elbrecht, Vicar, Carol Batig, Shirley Rindfleisch, Marilyn Elbrecht, Colleen Hazzard, Rosalie Hazzard, Marge Gold, Mary Anderson. Other members not present when picture was taken are: Peter Seletzky, Betty Anderson, David Gable, Wilma Landenberger, David Leist, Carol Runkle, Barbara Seletzky, Joan Geiger, Joyce Wingeleth, Nancy Glause, Nancy Rentschler, Richard Timm and Albert Gross.

For the young people of St. John, the Walther League serves as an outlet for their social interests. The League sponsors monthly activities including hayrides, swimming parties, Halloween and Christmas parties, and picnics, many of which are held jointly with the leaguers of other congregations.

To maintain its treasury, the league has sold Christmas cards and books and sponsored card parties, plays and other activities. The local group is also very active in the zone, district, and international Walther Leagues.

The first young peoples society at St. John was organized by Pastor Zorn in 1904. Although successful, the group was discontinued a few years later when the charter members grew to maturity.

Realizing the need for an organization to keep the young people within the church and to promote Christian love and fellowship among Lutheran young people, Pastor Bischoff and

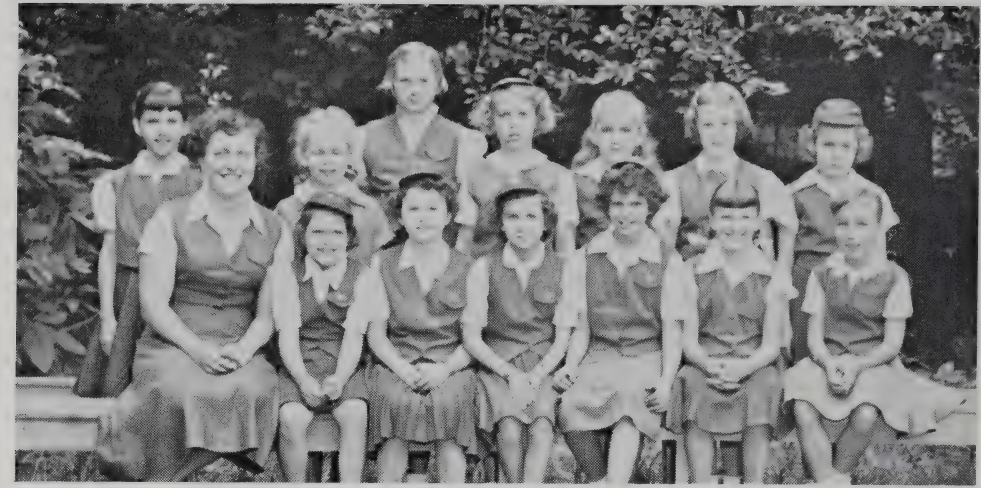
The Walther League gets together for a marshmallow roast—one of the many social outings of Christian fellowship and recreation held by this group. Reading from left to right. Standing: Ralph Guth, Joyce Wingeleth, Nancy Glause, Colleen Hazzard, Shirley Rindfleisch, Rosalie Hazzard, Betty Anderson, Arnold Kasten, Donald Berghaus, Peter Seletsky. Seated: Marilyn Elbrecht, Nancy Rentschler, Marge Gold, Dorothy Buehner. Inset: Shirley Rindfleisch samples the first burnt marshmallow.

Teacher Schall reorganized the young peoples society in August, 1930. The following March, the group joined the International Walther League.

Current officers of the Walther League of St. John are Ralph Guth, president; Peter Seletsky, vice president; Marge Gold, secretary; Betty Anderson, treasurer; Donald Berghaus, Christian growth chairman.

In the spirit of good fun, the boys and girls form a human pyramid as Betty Anderson adds moral support.

Our Bluebirds



Members of St. John Bluebirds, Mission Festival Sunday, August 9, 1953, reading from left to right. Standing: Sheila Hazzard, Carolyn Nelson, Kathleen Grisard, Joan Vernick, Ruth Marie Burk, Ingrid Lindstrom, Nancy Kapp. Seated: Alberta Barnes, Margaret Rindfliesch, Arlene Cecil, Karen Baumgart, Kathryn Gable, Barbara Bayer. Other members not present when picture was taken are: Faith Draegert, Carolyn Grosser, Rebecca Glawe, Paula Glawe, Sharon Melichar, Harriet Wolfe.

LEADER
Alberta Barnes

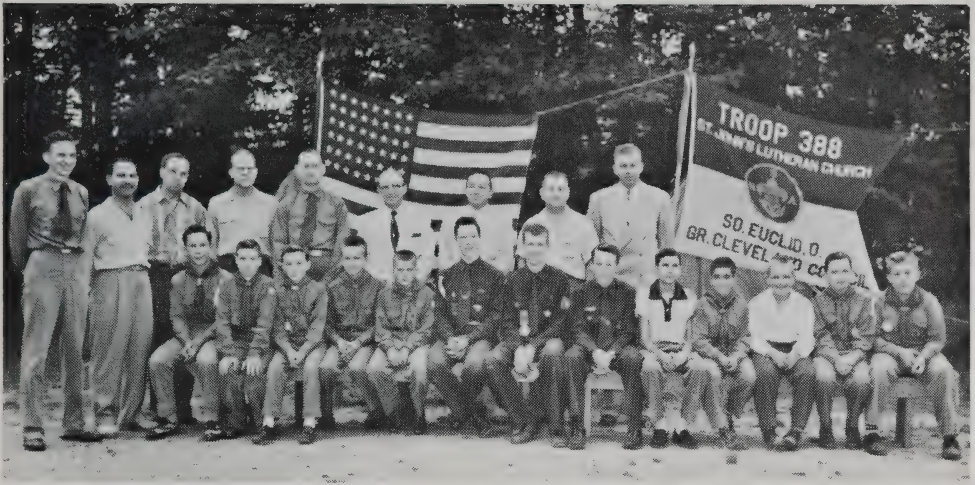
Each year at the Graduation Banquet, parents as well as the children look forward to the delightful little playlet put on by the Bluebird girls. These playlets have been written and very capably directed by Alberta Barnes.

Organized in October, 1950, under the sponsorship of the P.T.C., the Shining Blue Bird Group of St. John immediately became affiliated with the National Association of Camp Fire Girls.

From the start the group has thrived and membership doubled. Mrs. Ardieth Crosser was the first leader and has been succeeded by Mrs. Alberta Barnes.

In 1952 and 1953, the girls provided entertainment for the annual graduation banquet sponsored by the P.T.C. Meeting weekly, they have also made several field trips, turned out handcraft articles, and followed the other phases of the Camp Fire program.

Our Boy Scouts



Members of St. John Boy Scouts, Mission Festival Sunday, August 9, 1953, reading from left to right. Standing: William Gruber, Scoutmaster; Michael Hernandez, Explorer Advisor; Gottlob Kemmerle, Outdoorsman; John Kapp, Sr., Troop Committee President; Theodore Kasten, Tr. Comm. Advanceman; Jack Somerville, Asst. Scoutmaster; George Anderson, Tr. Comm. Secty.; Earl Krieger, Tr. Comm. Treasurer; Wilbert Vernick, Tr. Comm. Transportation. Seated: Richard Hernandez; Philip Johnson; Johnson; John Somerville; Paul Burk; John Kapp; Clyde Hernandez; Kenneth Kasten Thomas Giebner; Walter Kemmerle; Samuel Ciocco; George Anderson; Kenneth Krieger; Donald Vernick. Other members not present when picture was taken are: Paul Gibner; George Olah; Donald Kushing; James Gaskell; Robert Rankin; David Long; Philip Napoli; Ted Olah.

Sponsored by South Euclid's oldest church, Boy Scout Troop #388 is the city's newest troop. Organization plans were begun early in 1951, and on October 12, official presentation of the charter was made in the church with members of the congregation and representatives of neighboring troops taking part.

Meeting every Friday, Troop #388 has helped in church activities and done their part in community projects. They have also carried out numerous out-door activities, including 50 camping days at scouts reservations and a Canadian trip for Explorer Scouts.

A group of Boy Scouts on a weekend camping trip at Mather. A regular schedule of over-night camping trips, plus their summer camp week helps the boys in their program of advancement. St. John's is an open Scout troop, therefore some of the boys are not members at St. John Church.

One of the outstanding services during the year at St. John is the Easter Sunrise Service. Many worshippers take the opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

During the illness of our Pastor at the beginning of our Centennial year our neighbor, Pastor Eugene Belz, conducted the instruction of the confirmation class. Here the Pastors are opening presents given to them by the members of the confirmation class.

Pastor and Mrs. Burk and son, David, engage in a post-confirmation conversation with newly-confirmed Joan Gieger and her mother and sister. It is always a day of joy for parent and pastor when baptized members renew their vow thru the rite of confirmation.

Our congregation assembles in the outdoor cathedral of our picnic grove twice a year to hold an open-air service. The annual Church picnic and Mission Festival Day services are held in the grove, weather permitting.

Paul Elbrecht, student at Springfield Seminary, and member of St. John Church, has played a tremendous part in our work during the summers of 1952 and 1953.

The outdoor services do not loose the beauty of music which is recorded by tape from the church organ; and the Altar Guild prepares a very presentable temporary Altar.

August Gerken leads the choir which he directed for all the years he was teacher at St. John. During the Centennial Year, Mr. Gerken resigned from teaching, temporarily, and moved to Napoleon, Ohio. The Church was fortunate to soon again acquire a capable choir director in one of its new teachers, Mr. Richard Zielske.

When worshipping in the outdoors, the members feel a particular nearness to the Great God of all Creation. We of St. John can be grateful to our forefathers who, thru acquiring a large tract of ground, have made possible the facilities of our spacious picnic grove.

The spirit of friendliness at St. John is depicted each Sunday by groups of people assembling outside the church before and after services, to converse with fellow worshippers.

At the far right of the picture is Mr. Fred Elbrecht, one of the older and yet very active members of St. John. He has frequently served as St. John's delegate to District Synod Conventions.

Thru the 100 years of St. John, many children have been brought to Christ's Kingdom through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Charles and Harriet Hagerty are the sponsors for Kurt Edwin Weigand.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Sept. 26 – Oct. 4, 1953

For the opening of their Centennial celebration, the congregation returned to the site of their first meetings. The banquet opening the week-long program was held Saturday evening, September 26th, 1953, in the cafeteria of Charles F. Brush High School, which stands on the site of the Melcher farm, where the first services were held.

The main speaker at the banquet, which was attended by 400 members of the congregation and their friends, was Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffman, Director of Public Relations of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. Other speakers included Pastor Burk, Melvin Waldschmidt, Chairman of the Central Centennial Committee, Walter Elbrecht, Chairman of the Voters Assembly, and Mrs. Paul Maehler, President of the Ladies Aid, who presented a check for $1,000 to the Expansion Fund. Telegrams and letters of congratulation were received from: Rev. Edward Reinker, Zion Lutheran Church, Juniata, Nebraska; Rev. W. L. Bultman, Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, Missouri; Rev. Louis Wagner, Grace Lutheran Church, Queens Village, New York; Rev. Eugene Beltz, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; Dr. Edward F. Miller, St. Peters Lutheran Church, Warwich, New York; Rev. Armin C. Draegert, Faith Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio; Federation of Lutheran Churches, Rev. Clarence W. Luekens, Chairman, Cleveland, Ohio; Walter Schall, former teacher at St. John School; Robert Eckert; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haggerty; Mr. and Mrs. Jospeh Schulte; Mrs. Lawrence Hoffmeyer Vogel; Bob Smith, of the Howdy Doody Show on Television; his mother, Mrs. Emma Schmidt, granddaughter of the first Pastor H. Kuehn; Ernst K. Hoffmeyer; J. C. Nichols, Hillcrest Y. M. C. A., John Kuhfahl, Secretary; Mr. and Mrs. John P. Leimbach, Baltimore, Maryland.

Speaker at the Congregational Centennial Service, Sunday, September 27th, 1953, was the Rev. Martin Ilse, Second Vice-President of the Central District. Dr. J. W. Behnken, President of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, spoke at the afternoon Festival Centennial Service, which was followed by a social hour in the school at which refreshments were served by the ladies of the congregation.

Tuesday night's celebration was built around St. John's program of Christian education with open house being held at the School. Speaker was Mr. E. F. Sagehorn, Principal of the Cleveland Lutheran High School. Mr. Robert Shupp, Principal of Charles F. Brush High School, brought the greetings of the local Public Schools and School Board.

The services Wednesday night were devoted to the community and were held in the church. Speakers included Mayor George J. Urban of South Euclid, Mayor Elmer T. Elbrecht of Lyndhurst (a life-long member of St. John), and the Rev. L. W. Draheim, Chaplain of the Cleveland Lutheran Hospital, who delivered the sermon. Cleveland Lutheran A Cappella Choir

(Continued on page 96)

Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffman, Director of Public Relations Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

"The church has to meet a new frontier in the spirit of man today." This was the theme of Dr. Hoffman's address at the Centennial Banquet on Saturday, September 26, 1953. He went on to say, "There are forces at work which want to tear God out of His heaven and enthrone men in His place. This is the essence of sin. All the 'isms' in the history of the world have set upon the idea that God is the great illusion. To meet them, the church must again proclaim its message and carry out its mission."

Rev. Martin H. Ilse, Jr. Vice-President, Central District Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

The speaker at the Congregational Centennial Service, Sunday, September 27th, 1953, was Rev. Martin Ilse, who used as his sermon text, Psalm 116:12, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" Based on this text, the speaker stated, "Your God has safely guided you throughout this century; it is fitting, therefore, that you pause today to give praise and thanks to the great God and Lord of His church. The great blessings of growth which God has placed upon this congregation are both external and internal. To show your gratitude, come personally to the Saviour and accept His saving Gospel. Is this Gospel a real and living faith within your hearts?"

Dr. J. W. Behnken, President Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

Speaker at the Centennial Festival Service, Sunday, September 27, 1953, Dr. Behnken used as his text, I Peter, 2:9, "But ye are a chosen genertion, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people ...." Dr. Behnken said, in part, "Permit me on the basis of the text to set forth Scriptural reasons for your Centennial joy. God sent His only-begotten Son to die for you—in Him, through Him, by Him, we today are dressed in the white garments of His righteousness. Are we always truly thankful to God for the gift of His Son? You have much for which to thank God, and may your joy be this, that as congregation and as individuals, you rededicate yourself anew to God for ever greater service, and find joy in the fact that you may do great things for Him."

Mr. E. F. Sagehorn,
Principal
Cleveland Lutheran High

Mr. E. F. Sagehorn, speaking at the Centennial service of Christian Education, based his remarks on Psalm 127 verse 1: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it . . ." He said that the strength of the nation, the church and the home is the individual. The individual's strength must come from the Lord or else we are building on quicksand. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod supports a full program of Christian education because it believes that except the Lord has His rightful part in the building of an individual's life the building is in vain. Our schools are not in competition to public education, but we can permeate the entire education of the child with Christian philosophy only through the church school medium and thus fulfill the Lord's command not only to educate the body and mind of the child but also the heart and soul.

Rev. Leslie W. Draheim,
Chaplain
Cleveland Lutheran Hospital

Rev. Leslie Draheim was the speaker at the Community Centennial Service, Wednesday, September 30, 1953. Numbers 10:29, ". . . We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good." This was the text used by Rev. Draheim, and the theme of his sermon was as follows: "What would your community be like without the Christian Church? The fact that men in our country are free today, bears the influence of the Spirit of the Church. The message of good which the Church has for the community is the message of Salvation through Christ Jesus. May St. John, as you launch into the second century of the history of this Church, continue to say to those in your Community, 'Come thou with us and we will do thee good.' "

George J. Urban, Mayor
City of South Euclid, Ohio

The Mayor of South Euclid was present at the Community Centenial Service, Wednesday, September 30, 1953. He spoke to the congregation briefly bringing the official words of congratulation from the community as well as his own personal felicitations. He said that a church is a leading institution in any community for the good of its morality and better citizenship. It has a tremendous influence to wield for good. St. John, since it is one of the first and oldest churches in the City of South Euclid, has played a singular role in the history of this municipality. The hope is that it shall remain a guiding light for the people of South Euclid for time and eternity.

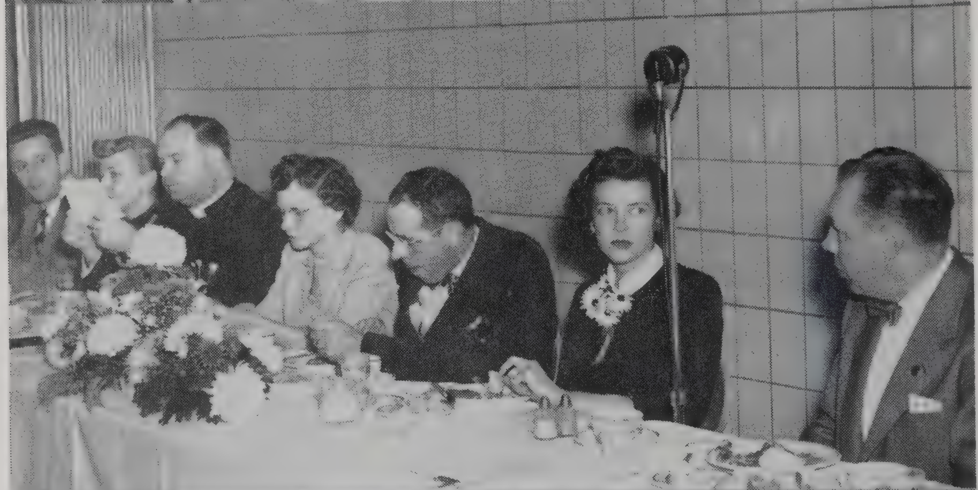
Dr. Carl M. Zorn
Closter, New Jersey

Two Rededication Services were held on Sunday, October 4, 1953. The speaker at the 8:15 A.M. service, was Dr. Carl Zorn, who preached on the text, Hebrews 13:22, "I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation, for I have written a letter unto you in few words." In developing this text, Dr. Zorn said, "While looking forward into the second century, you can be led into exciting dreams about great deeds to be done in the work for Christ's Kingdom. However, in rededicating yourselves as servants of Christ, you must, if necessary, let all organization fall to pieces rather than give up the least bit of loyalty to the Gospel and example of Christ."

Dr. Hans M. Zorn
Indianapolis, Indiana

In the 10:45 A.M. Rededication Service, Sunday, October 4, 1953, Dr. Hans Zorn's text was I John 3:1-3, "Behold, what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the Sons of God. . . ." Dr. Zorn went on to say, "God tells us that He dedicates us to His service; He calls us His children, and so we are. The world does not know us, for if it does not know God, how can it know His children? You of St. John must rededicate yourselves to the service of God, to His holy word; and serve Him who loved you and made you the children of God.

After the service on Rededication Sunday, Dr. Zorn, a former pastor of St. John, had opportunity to renew old friendships and acquaintances from years gone by. Dr. Zorn is shown here reminiscing with Mrs. Fred Leppelmeier. In the background are Mr. Herbert Hoffmeyer and Mr. William Keske.



Top: General scene of Centennial Banquet at Brush High School.
Middle: Speakers table, left to right: Pastor Burk, Ruth Burk, Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann, Thekla Elbrecht, Walter Elbrecht, Ethel Waldschmidt, Melvin Waldschmidt.

Lower left: Dr. Hoffman, addressing the banquet gathering as the main speaker for the occasion.

Lower right: The Pastor making a short inspirational address.

Top: The Lutheran High School students furnishing music for the Centennial Banquet.

Inset: Mrs. William Libby, the oldest living member present at the Centennial Banquet.

Lower: The Ladies Aid presenting a $1,000 check to the Centennial Expansion Fund. Mrs. George Leppelmeier, Treasurer, presenting the check as Mrs. Paul Maehler, President of the Aid, looks on with justified pride.

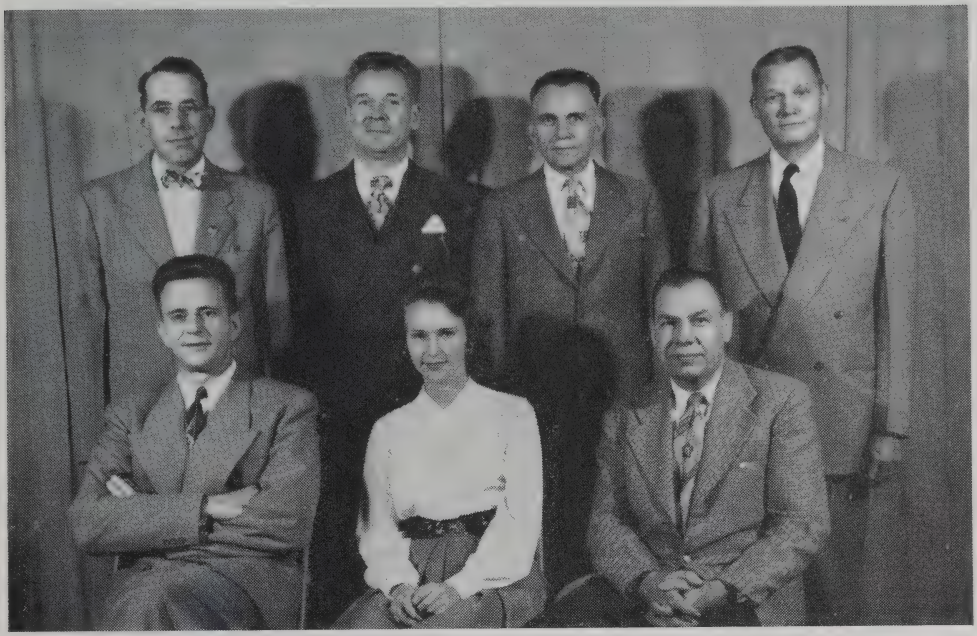
After the Centennial service on September 27, 1953, former teacher Edward Bewie held an impromptu reunion with a group of his former pupils from St. John. After a period of pleasant reminiscing, the group gathered on the lawn in front of the school for this picture. Reading from left to right Mrs. Edward Bewie, Elsie Cannon, Carl Giesler, Herbert Batig, Elmer Elbrecht, William H. Schwentker, Norman Libby, Emma Fibich, Elizabeth Somerville, Mona Eckert, Edward Bewie, Ernestine Dremann, Esther Rindfliesch, Lucille Dreman, Bertha Gable, Gertrude Glause, Julia Eckert, Marie Brauer, Ruth Dreman, Walter Keske.

Former teacher, Mrs. Harald Arnesen is shown here putting a group of her former pupils of St. John through the paces. Many amusing incidents were recalled from former school days as preparations were being made to take this picture. Reading from left to right, front row: Ruth Libby, Clara Kasten, Florence Treichel, Margaret Gold, Teacher Arnesen. Second row: Esthel Rindfleisch, Ethel Waldschmidt, Karl Elbrecht, Elizabeth Somerville. Third row: Norinne Vernick, Carl Brueggemyer, Virginia Melichar, Ernest Grosser, Ruth Patzwald, Alberta Barnes.

The above candid pictures were taken at the reception following the Centennial Festival service on Sunday, September 27, 1953. The large number of worshippers at the service enjoyed the informal fellowship of the social hour which followed the service.

One of the outstanding activities during our Centennial week was the pageant held at Victory Park School. The pageant, which depicted the one hundred years history of the congregation was enacted by the members of the various church organizations and was written and directed by Alberta Barnes, top inset, and Evelyn Lindstrom, bottom inset.

The Centennial Committee



The Centennial Central Committee was organized in the Spring of 1951 under the chairmanship of William Hausrath, who regretfully had to resign because of his health. This committee was organized to plan the Centennial celebration and its related activities. Standing, left to right: Walter Elbrecht, Arthur Schmidt, Sr., Carl Giesler, Elmer Elbrecht. Seated: Pastor Burk, Grace Hinz, General Secretary, Melvin Waldschmidt.

Melvin Waldschmidt
General Chairman

Robert Reeves
Publicity Chairman

Paul Miller
Expansion
Program
Chairman

Herbert Hoffmeyer
Visiting
Committee
Chairman

Erwin Elbrecht
Finance
Committee
Chairman

Norman Libby
Speakers
Committee
Chairman

Ernest Grosser
Arrangements
Committee
Chairman

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION (Con't. from page 86)

sang at the service, accompanied by Mr. Henry Markworth, organist at Trinity Lutheran Church. Friends of the community joined with members of the congregation in an hour of fellowship following the church service. The ladies of the congregation again served refreshments.

The auditorium of Victory Park School, across the street from St. John, was the scene of an historical pageant depicting the 100-year history of the church. Authors of the pageant were Mrs. Ross Barnes and Mrs. Einar Lindstrom; members of the organizations of the congregation made up the cast. Narrator was the Rev. Frederick Kemper, pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio.

Sunday, October 4th, the celebration closed with the Rededication Services, which featured a father-son combination; Dr. H. M. Zorn, the former pastor of St. John, and his son, the Rev. Carl M. Zorn, the Secretary of the Atlantic District. The son preached at the 8:15 A.M. service, and his father at the 10:45 A.M. service. Following his sermon, Dr. Zorn stood before the altar to greet the friends made in his two decades of service at St John.

This Book is a result of the co-operation of many people. At the beginning of the Centennial year pictures from old family albums far and wide began coming into the publicity committee. Richard Bischoff was in charge of this phase of the project.

The generous contribution of facilities and services of The Manning Studios, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio played a great part in the preparation of this book. This included the copying of old photos, retouching, lettering and illustrations.

Most of the 1953 photographs were taken by Richard Elbrecht and Robert Reeves.

Pastor and Mrs. Stewart Burk assisted in identifying people and writing the cutlines for the photographs.

Mr. Karl Keyerleber, Cleveland Plain Dealer feature writer and author of the Lyndhurst history, gave us technical advice and assisted in editing the book.

The publicity and sale of the book was directed by Mrs. Arthur Bluck with the assistance of Miss Grace Hinz.

Above is picture of members affiliated with St. John over a half century who were present at the Mission Festival service in 1953. Reading from left to right, back row: Henry Eckert, Elmer Elbrecht, Louis Emshoff, Carl Hauschild, Fred Elbrecht, Charles Batig, Herbert Fibich, Carl Giesler, Carl Faust, Victor Schroeder; Middle Row: Esther Gilbert, Julia Eckert, Clara Dill, Greta Hoffmeyer, Martha Brueggemyer, Ernestine Dremen, Emma Fibich, Mathilda Faust, Dora Elbrecht, Emma Brueggemyer, Estella Hoffmeyer, Gertrude Giesler, William Miller; Front Row: Pauline Prasse, Martha Brueggemyer, Augusta Jones, Lydia Gesell, Ida Emshoff, Minnie Batig, Maria Patzwald, Anna Smith, Elizabeth Libby, Marie Eggleston.

COMMUNICANT MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN 1953

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Abe
Miss Janet Abe
Mr. & Mrs. George Anderson
Miss Betty Anderson
Miss Mary Anderson
Mrs. Robert Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Arndt
Mr. Richard Arndt
Mr. & Mrs. Ross Barnes
Mrs. James F. Barta
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Batig
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Batig
Miss Carol Batig
Mr. Charles Batig
Mr. Melvin Batig
Mr. & Mrs. William Baumgart
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bayer
Mrs. Mildred Bennington
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Barghaus
Mr. Donald Berghaus
Mr. Carl Bindbeutel
Mrs. Walter Bischoff

Miss Louise Bischoff
Mr. Richard Bischoff
Miss Barbara Black
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bliss
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Bluck
Mr. & Mrs. Stanton Bogart
Mr. Walter Bonsack
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Boyle
Mr. Carl Brueggemyer
Miss Clara Brueggemyer
Miss Ellen Brueggemyer
Miss Martha Brueggemyer
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Brueggemyer
Mrs. Otto Brueggemyer
Mr. & Mrs. Gaylord Brundage
Miss Dorothy Buehner
Mrs. Katherine Buell
The Rev. Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Burk
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Burkhart
Mrs. Anna Bussman
Mrs. Lydia Butts
Mr. Harry Butts

Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Cannon
Mrs. William Channell
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Charske
Mr. William Charske
Mrs. Nick Cirino
Mrs. Robert R. Coccia
Mrs. Matilda Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert R. Corban
Mr. & Mrs. Roy A. Corban
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Crawford
Mr. Darwin Crone
Mrs. Wayne Culp
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Curtiss
Miss Jean Curtiss
Mr. John Curtiss
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Czeto
Miss Doris Czeto
Mr. Hugo Dahlgren
Miss Ursula Dauksch
Mrs. Margaret Dawson
Mr. & Mrs. William Deutschman
Mr. C. C. Dill

Membership list as of Dec. 3, 1953.

Miss Clara Dill
Miss Lucille Dreman
Miss Ruth Dreman
Miss Ernestine Dremann
Mr. Henry Dremann
Mr. Wilbert Dremann
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Ebert
Miss Jane Ebert
Mr. & Mrs. William Eble
Mr. & Mrs. George Eckert
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Eckert
Mr. Karl Eckert
Mrs. Walter Eckert
Mr. Robert Eckert
Mr. William Eckert
Mrs. Roy Eddy
Mr. Robert Eddy
Mr. & Mrs. Homer Eggleston
Mrs. Loretta Eggleston
Miss Jane Mattson
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Eickhoff
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Eickhoff, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Eisermann
Mrs. Charles Elbrecht
Mr. Elmer Elbrecht
Miss Marilyn Elbrecht
Mr. Richard Elbrecht
Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Elbrecht
Mr. Fred Elbrecht
Mr. Karl Elbrecht
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Elbrecht
Mr. & Mrs. William Elbrecht
Mr. Ralph Elbrecht
Mr. Chris Emshoff
Mrs. Louis Emshoff
Mr. & Mrs. William Emshoff
Mrs. B. E. Endsley
Miss Caroline Fark
Mr. Fred Fark
Miss Louise Fark
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Faust
Miss Matilda Faust
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Fibich
Mr. Elmer Fibich
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Fibich
Mr. & Mrs. William Fibich
Mrs. Mary Finkemeier
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Floor
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Frandsen
Mrs. Donald Frick
Mrs. Ernest Froehlich
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gable
Mr. David Gable
Mr. Richard Gable, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John Geiger
Miss Joan Geiger
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Geisler
Mrs. Carl Gesell
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Giebner
Mr. Thomas Giebner
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Giesler
Mr. Herbert Giesler

Miss Shirley Giesler
Mr. Wayne Giesler
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Giesler
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Giesler
Mrs. Carl Gilbert
Mr. Russell Gilbert
Mr. Wallace Gilbert
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Glause
Miss Nancy Glause
Mr. Robert Glause
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Glause, Jr.
Mr. Melvin Glause
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Glawe
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Gold
Mr. John Gold
Miss Margaret Gold
Mr. Merle G. Golnick
Mr. Norman Gottschalk
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Graber
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Graf
Mr. William Grimes
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Grisard
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Gronert
Mr. Kenneth Gronert
Mr. & Mrs. Wilfrid Grose
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Gross
Mr. Albert Gross
Mr. E. G. Grosser
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Grosser
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Gruber
Mr. Herbert Gruber, Jr.
Mr. Wayne Gruber
Mr. & Mrs. William Gruber
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Guth
Miss Marcene Guth
Mr. Ralph Guth
Mrs. Charles Hull
Miss Edith Harbath
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Haserodt
Mrs. Ruth Hatfield
Mrs. Olive Hauck
Mrs. Frieda Hauptman
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hauschild
Mrs. Rudolph Hausmann
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hausrath
Mr. & Mrs. William Hausrath
Mrs. Twila Hazzard
Miss Colleen Hazzard
Miss Rosalie Hazzard
Mrs. Amanda Hendershot
Mr. Herbert Hendershot
Mrs. John Henn
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hernandez
Mr. Clyde Hernandez
Mr. & Mrs. Gust Herr
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Herr
Mr. & Mrs. William Hinz
Miss Grace Hinz
Mrs. Arnold Hirt
Mr. Allen Hirt
Mr. Donald Hirt

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hitchcock
Mr. Clifford Hiffman
Mr. Godfrey Hoffmeyer
Mrs. Godfrey Hoffmeyer
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Hoffmeyer
Mrs. Hattie Holaday
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Holsing
Mr. L. W. Honsbehn
Mrs. Chris Honsben
Miss Lucille Honsben
Mrs. A. W. Hood
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Huelsman
Mr. Howard Huelsman
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Huelsman
Miss Lucille Huelsman
Mr. Norman Huelsman
Mrs. Martin Huge
Mr. Reinhardt Huge
Mr. Theodore Huge
Mrs. Frank Hybil
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Jagusch
Miss Muriel James
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Jodszuweit
Mr. Frank Jodszuweit, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Jones
Mrs. Milan Jones
Mr. Ralph Jones
Mr. Robert Jones
Mr. Clarence Kanenberg
Mr. & Mrs. John Kapp
Mrs. Frank Karpowich
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Kasten
Mr. Arnold Kasten, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Kasten
Mr. Kenneth Kasten
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Kath
Miss Irma Kath
Miss Shirley Kath
Mr. & Mrs. Gottlob Kemmerle
Mr. Donald Kemmerle
Mr. Walter Kemmerle
Mr. & Mrs. William Keske
Mr. & Mrs. John Kirsch
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Klaus
Miss Doris Klaus
Mr. Paul Klaus
Mrs. Edward Kline
Mrs. Minnie Kohl
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Koklauner
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Kolman
Mr. Edward Kossman
Mr. & Mrs. Ludwig Kossman
Mr. Walter Kossman
Mr. Arthur Kozlow
Miss Betty Krause
Mr. Gene Krielow
Miss Alvina Kroll
Mr. Edward Kroll
Mr. Fred Kroll
Mr. & Mrs. Curt Kushing
Mr. Alvin Kushing

Membership list as of Dec. 3, 1953.

Mr. Donald Kushing
Mr. Kenneth Landenberger
Mr. & Mrs. Julius Landenberger
Miss Wilma Landenberger
Mr. David Leist
Mr. & Mrs. George Lembke
Mrs. Ernest Leppelmeier
Mrs. Fred Leppelmeier
Mr. & Mrs. George Leppelmeier
Mrs. Pauline Levine
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Libby
Mrs. William Libby
Mr. & Mrs. Einar Lindstrom
Mrs. Walter Link
Mr. & Mrs. William Litschert
Mrs. Paul Maehler
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Major
Mr. & Mrs. James Malta
Miss Gertrude Marchand
Mr. Donald Marchand
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Marland
Miss Bertha Melcher
Miss Elizabeth Melcher
Miss Meta Melcher
Mr. & John Melcher
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Melichar
Mrs. E. W. Melter
Mr. Eugene Melter
Miss Esther Miller
Mr. Harry Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Miller
Mr. & Mrs. William Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Bailey Moldwin
Mr. Anthony Moldwin
Mr. William Moldwin
Dr. & Mrs. H. B. Mueller
Miss Anna Lee Mueller
Mr. Walter Mueller
Mrs. Ruth Murry
Mrs. James Nicholl
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Niemeier
Mrs. William Norman
Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Norsell
Mr. & Mrs. Gust Nowjak
Mr. Robert Nowjak
Mr. Walter Nowjak
Mrs. Theodore Opper
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Ott
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Otto
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Pahner
Mrs. Julius Patzwald
Mr. Raymond Patzwald
Miss Ruth Patzwald
Mrs. Philip Pickens
Mr. & Mrs. George Pipes
Mr. & Mrs. John Plinke
Mr. & Mrs. William Pohle
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Potting
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Prasse
Mr. Melvin Prasse
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Prasse
Mr. Earl Prasse
Mr. Ernest Prasse
Mr. Fred Prasse
Mrs. Fred Prasse
Mr. Herbert Prasse
Mrs. William Prasse
Mrs. Otto Price
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Primeau
Mrs. Elsie Prujan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reeves
Mr. & Mrs. Karl Reichert
Miss Shirley Reichert
Mrs. A. H. Reinker
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Reker
Mrs. Ernst Reker
Mr. Louis Reker
Mr. & Mrs. William Reker
Miss Marilyn Remer
Mrs. John Remington
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rentschler
Miss Nancy Rentschler
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Richter
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Rindfleisch
Miss Shirley Rindfleisch
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rindfleisch
Mr. & Mrs. Reinhardt Rindfleisch
Mrs. Carl Rolf
Mrs. Susan Roskos
Mr. Gilbert Rowland
Mrs. Carl Runkle
Miss Carol Runkle
Mrs. Wilhemina Sapatka
Mrs. Allen Schaubuth
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Schieman
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Schmidt
Miss Jane Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Schmidt, Jr.
Mrs. Jerome Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Otto Schmidt
Miss Romelda Schmidt
Miss Grace Schmies
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Schneider
Mr. Clifford Schneider
Mr. Robert Schneider
Mr. Glenn Schneider
Miss Dorothy Schneider
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Schneider
Mrs. Sam Schneider
Mr. & Mrs. Ernst Schoch
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Schroeder
Miss Virginia Schroeder
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Schultz
Mr. & Mrs. Otto Schultz
Mr. Richard Schultz
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Schwentker
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Schwentker
Miss Marie Schwentker
Mrs. A. C. Seletzky
Miss Barbara Seletzky
Mr. Peter Seletzky
Mrs. Victor Sheridan
Mr. & Mrs. George Shernit
Mrs. Robert Shortle
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Simmons
Mrs. Emily Slorp
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Emil Smith
Mrs. John Smith
Mrs. Carl Snider
Mrs. Jack Somerville
Mrs. Lillian Spies
Miss Anna Stanko
Miss Betty Stanko
Mr. Milton Stanko
Mrs. Allen Stevens
Mr. Walter Stoetzer
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Szitas
Mr. Gene Taber
Mrs. Gene Taber
Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Taufenbach
Mrs. Fred Theuerkauf
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Timm
Mr. Richard Timm
Mr. Alvin Tinner
Mr. Harold Titgemeyer
Mr. Wilbert Titgemeyer
Mr. & Mrs. Otto Toncre
Miss Janet Toncre
Mrs. Stephen Toth
Mrs. Ella Toye
Mrs. George Tresnicka
Mrs. John Ulman
Mr. Donald Urban
Mrs. John Urban
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Vernick
Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Vernick
Mr. Norman Vernick
Mr. Robert Voelkel
Mrs. L. J. Wagner
Miss Alma Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Waldschmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Way
Mrs. Emily Webster
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Wegman
Mr. Charles Werner
Miss Lorena Wiggins
Miss Joyce Wingeleth
Miss Gloria Wirth
Mr. Henry Wischmeyer
Miss Georgia Wolf
Mr. Richard Wolf
Mrs. William Wood
Mr. Richard E. Zielske
Mr. Frank Zilbauer

Membership list as of Dec. 3, 1953.

St. John Lutheran Church, School and parsonage, 1953.

"May God be pleased, as in the past, so also in the future, to bless our Church, and graciously keep her in the true and only saving Christian faith as set forth and confessed in the Lutheran Symbols, whose paramount object is to maintain the gem of the Reformation, the blessed doctrine of salvation by grace only, which most wonderfully magnifies the great glory of our God, and alone is able to impart solid comfort to poor sinners."

(Professor F. Bente in the
"Preface" to the BOOK OF CONCORD)